

Birds in Wales Adar yng Nghymru



Welsh Bird Report - 2016 - Adroddiad Adar Cymru

2017



14:3



Welsh Bird Report No. 30: 2016

Edited by Julian Hughes

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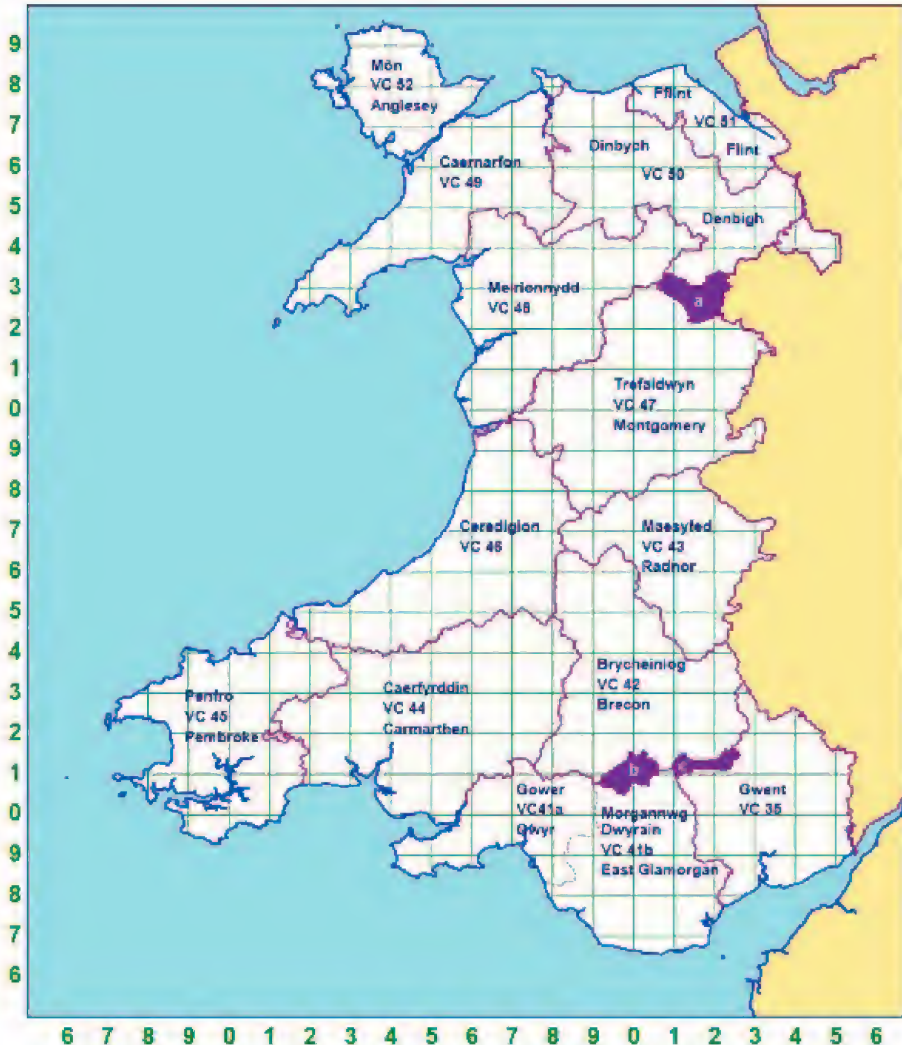
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Front cover: Wood Warbler (Bob Garrett). Back cover: Lapwing (Bob Garrett)

Published in December 2017 by
The Welsh Ornithological Society
Registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 1037823.
Price - £12

Introduction

The map shows the bird recording areas for Wales used in *Birds in Wales*. The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (see the Ray Society, publication No. 146) as the basis of bird recording in Wales. This system largely matches the pre-1974 administrative counties used by the Society until 1996. The three differences shown in purple reflect the modern boundaries of Powys: records from (a) are maintained by both Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire recorders; those from (b), while historically in Brecknockshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively.



This report is produced largely using records published in the bird reports listed on page 183. *Birds in Wales* was published by T. & A.D. Poyser in 1994. This was updated in 2002 with the WOS publication *Birds in Wales 1992-2000*. Both are now out of print, though *Birds in Wales* is available as a POD and e-version.

TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2016 unless otherwise indicated. Species names and order follow the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) British List as at June 2017. The species included in the main list are those placed by the BOU in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species which now have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at birds.in.wales/rare-birds/welsh-records-panel

For some species monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. Unless noted as WeBS, these figures are the peak count noted at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

Early in 2017, WOS and vice-county bird recorders formally agreed the adoption of vice-county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website birds.in.wales. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 2, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Brecknockshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN or GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the vice-county from which they were seen. The exception is the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion; at this site, records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION if they were reported from both vice-counties and the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers involved differ slightly from each side. RSPB Conwy reserve is treated as being in DENBIGH unless the bird concerned was specifically noted to be in the small part of the reserve which lies in CAERNARFON.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each vice-county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date is shown in bold type.

The species codes are as follows: (A) A rare species where all records are quoted, (B) Unusual species, where a summary of records is given, (C) Commoner species, where a summary of breeding records, large counts or unusual records is given, (D) A common species, where there is nothing of note to report.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, based on Johnstone and Bladwell 2016.

Abbreviations used in the report

CP. Country Park
Est. Estuary
GP. Gravel Pit
LNR. Local Nature Reserve
NR. Nature Reserve
NNR. National Nature Reserve (designated)
R. River
Res. Reservoir
RG. Ringing Group
WeBS. Wetland Bird Survey
WTW. Water Treatment Works

SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or on the list of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WRP. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or be still under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WRP species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records submitted too late for a decision in time for publication in the Report for that year will be included in subsequent years if accepted.

Records should be submitted to BBRC through County Recorders or in an electronic form **ONLY** to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description, please send to the WRP Secretary, Jon Green, who will scan and send it on to BBRC.

WELSH RECORDS PANEL

The Welsh Records Panel considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the BBRC list. The current list is shown below. Only records of these species adjudicated and accepted by the Panel are published in the Welsh Bird Report.

Descriptions can be submitted via County Recorders or direct to the Panel's Secretary. Description forms are available from County Recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the Panel can see their deliberations on the record on request. The Panel has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary; membership in 2016 comprised: Steve Stansfield (Caernarfonshire, Chair), Mike Powell (E.Glamorgan), Richard Brown (Pembrokeshire), Robin Sandham (Caernarfonshire), Chris Jones (Denbighshire), Mark Hipkin (Gower), and Jon Green (non-voting Secretary) (Ceredigion); address: Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**.

In 2016, the full list of species which the Panel considered was as follows:

Bean Goose	Stone-curlew	Subalpine Warbler*
American Wigeon	Kentish Plover	Barred Warbler
Green-winged Teal	American Golden Plover	Greenish Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Temminck's Stint,	Dusky Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Radde's Warbler
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper	Pallas's Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Blyth's Reed Warbler
White-billed Diver	Red-necked Phalarope	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Cory's Shearwater	Caspian Gull	Rose-coloured Starling
Great Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull	Bearded Tit
Wilson's Petrel	White-winged Black Tern	Penduline Tit
Night Heron	Alpine Swift	Citrine Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Bee-eater	Short-toed Lark
Purple Heron	Golden Oriole	Shore Lark
White Stork	Red-backed Shrike	Serin
Glossy Ibis	Woodchat Shrike	Common Redpoll
Black Kite	Red-rumped Swallow	Arctic Redpoll
Montagu's Harrier	Olive-backed Pipit	Common Rosefinch
Rough-legged Buzzard	Tawny Pipit	Corn Bunting
White-tailed Eagle	Nightingale	Girl Bunting
Golden Eagle	Bluethroat	Ortolan Bunting
Red-footed Falcon	Aquatic Warbler	Rustic Bunting
Corncrake	Marsh Warbler	Little Bunting
Spotted Crane	Icterine Warbler	
Crane	Melodious Warbler	

* Subalpine Warbler only when the subspecies cannot be determined. Records assigned to subspecies to BBRC.

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis (i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually). Examples considered by the WRP are:

Black Brant Goose – <i>nigricans</i>	Siberian Chiffchaff – <i>tristis</i>
Iceland Gull – <i>kumlieni</i>	Treecreeper – <i>familiaris</i>
Common Guillemot – <i>hyperborea</i>	Coal Tit – <i>ater</i>
Razorbill – <i>torda</i>	Jay – <i>glandarius</i>
Little Auk – <i>polaris</i>	Jackdaw – <i>monedula</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker – <i>major</i>	Redpolls – <i>islandica</i> / <i>rostrata</i>
Grey-headed Wagtail – <i>thunbergi</i>	Bullfinch – <i>pyrrhula</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2016. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the vice-county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their draft reports and answered my queries so promptly.

Sections of this report were compiled by Dr. Richard Facey (pigeons to corvids), Jon Green (raptors), Bob Haycock (divers to grebes and skuas to gulls), Keith Noble (waxwing to pipits), Rhion Pritchard (rails

and waders) and Dr. Stephanie Tyler (goldcrest to warblers). Extra information was supplied by Martin Clift (RSPB Cymru), Adrienne Stratford (Cross/Stratford Welsh Chough Project; Chough) and the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme.

Thanks to Rhion also for his guidance and advice as he handed over the Welsh Bird Report, having edited it for 12 years, and to Ian Spence for designing the report.

Thanks also to Kelvin Jones for organising the photographs and to the photographers, who are credited in the captions, and to Stephen McAvoy (BTO) for providing data from BirdTrack that is summarised in the report.

Julian Hughes, Editor.

Weather summary for Wales in 2016

This summary is based on the Met Office monthly summaries for Wales at metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2016/

January began mild and very unsettled with low pressure dominating, and frequent spells of heavy and persistent rain. It was colder around mid-month with some snow, particularly over higher ground. The month ended very mild and wet with strong winds. The mean temperature was 1.3°C above the 1981-2010 average. With 155% of average rainfall, it was the seventh wettest January since records began in 1910.

The first half of February was generally mild, wet and cloudy with mainly westerly and south-westerly winds, and some strong winds around the 8th associated with Storm Imogen. It was colder, drier and sunnier in the second half, with some frosts. The mean temperature was 0.5°C above the 1981-2010 average. It was another wet month, with 133% of average rainfall overall.

March began unsettled and quite cold, and there were strong winds associated with Storm Jake on the 2nd. The weather was settled and anticyclonic from 13-23 Feb., bringing plenty of dry weather. The mean temperature was 0.5°C below the long-term average. Rainfall was 89% of average.

April began unsettled with frequent rain or showers, and this changeable theme continued for the first half of the month. The second half of the month was bright and cool, with a warm sunny spell in central and northern areas on 19-22 April. Wintry showers fell unusually widely for late-April on 26-29th. Mean temperature was 0.7°C below the long-term average. It was wetter than average in the north and drier than average in the south.

May started wet and windy with westerly winds, and there was another unsettled interlude on 17-22 May. Otherwise a generally warm month with frequent easterly winds, and plenty of dry sunny weather, especially in the north, but also some thundery downpours, particularly in the south. Mean temperature was 1.2°C above the long-term average. Rainfall was mostly above average in the south and below average in the north.

June started warm and dry, but from the 10th the weather was very unsettled, with low pressure often dominant, and showers or longer spells of rain. Mean temperature was 1.3°C above the long-term average and for minimum temperature this was the warmest June since records began in 1910. It was a wet month, with some western parts having over twice the normal rainfall.

July started breezy and showery, then turned warm and sunny on 17-20 July before cooler changeable weather re-established during the last week. The unsettled spells tended to be wet in the north-west, but rainfall amounts in the south and east were generally small. Mean temperature was equal to the long-term average. It was a dry month in the east and south, but wet in the north-west.

August began cloudy and wet with low pressure in charge. There were more significant settled spells during the second half of the month, although it was wet and windy around the 20th. Mean temperature was 0.6°C above the 1981-2010 average and rainfall was 97% of average. It was drier and sunnier than average in the north-east.

September began unsettled with a west to south-westerly airflow, and this unsettled but warm regime lasted until the 9th. It was warmer and more settled in the second week but the second half of the month saw a return to unsettled weather with mostly above-average temperatures. Mean temperature was 1.7°C above the long-term average, and the mean minimum temperature was the second highest since records began in 1910. Rainfall was 116% of average.

Easterly winds prevailed for most of October, leading to a remarkable flow of Scandinavian and Russian-derived migrant birds. Mean temperature was 0.2°C above the 1981-2010 average. There was just 27% of average rainfall, making it the sixth driest October since records began in 1910.

November continued quiet and anticyclonic with cold air spreading from the north. Cold northerly winds were frequent during the first third of the month. It was unsettled in the third week, and particularly wet and windy on 20-21st, associated with Storm Angus. The month ended cold, dry and sunny with high pressure in charge. Mean temperature was 1.2°C below the long-term average and rainfall was below normal except in parts of the east and south.

December began settled and often cold and frosty, with high pressure in charge until 6th, after which it was mild, often with southerly winds. There was an unsettled and windy spell from the 21st to 26th, followed by a dry and settled but often cloudy spell at the end of the month. The mean temperature for December was 1.8°C above the long-term average. It was a dry month, especially in the east, with 50% of average rainfall overall.



Review of the birding year 2016

The last time that Cranes nested in Wales, the Gunpowder Plot was recent news, the English Civil War extended its reach into Wales and central London was destroyed by the Great Fire; the population of Wales was around 15% of its current level, severe floods destroyed villages along the south coast and Conwy's human population was ravaged by the Plague.

Wales looks very different today, so the pair of Cranes that nested in Wales in 2016 were something of a surprise, a pair from the reintroduction project in Somerset crossing the Bristol Channel to nest successfully on the Gwent Levels. They illustrate what great potential this wetland has, if only Welsh Government can be convinced that it will be better without six lanes of tarmac through it.

The other nesting breakthrough was more predicted, but nonetheless very welcome: Bitterns breeding on Anglesey, the first in Wales since the mid 1980s, are the result of 20 years of work to restore reedbeds, fens and mires on the island. RSPB Cors Ddyga nature reserve - as Malltraeth Marsh is now known - is already home to another of Wales' rarest breeders, Marsh Harrier, and it is great to report territorial pairs in Brecknockshire and Gwent this year too.



Bittern (Jeff Slocombe)

The other ornithological highlight of 2016 was the influx of Yellow-browed Warblers and Siberian Chiffchaffs during October resulting from a sustained period of high pressure over Scandinavia. Only Meirionnydd and Radnor missed out on the arrival of Yellow-broweds, of which there were over 170 in Wales that month, and this is surely only a reflection of the limited number of birders in these vice-counties.



Yellow-browed Warbler (Jeff Slocombe)

The same weather conditions also brought a sprinkling of eastern rarities to North Wales, including Booted Warbler and Red-flanked Bluetail to the mainland, and Radde's and Blyth's Reed Warbler to Bardsey.

The *Welsh Bird Report* compiles records of some species that are too scarce to be monitored by formal recording schemes. This year we highlight the continued decline of Bewick's Swans visiting Wales, with birds at only three sites and perhaps just 36 individuals. The decline in the global Greenland White-fronted Goose population has been well-documented, and 2016 saw the second-lowest count ever on the Dyfi estuary, but more positive is the rediscovery of a small flock on Anglesey. The Welsh Ornithological Society continues to press the Welsh Government to ban hunting of both Greenland and European forms.

This Report also summarises the counts of breeding seabirds, and it's a mixed picture. Fulmars and Kittiwakes are declining on most mainland colonies and most Cormorant colonies are slowly shrinking, but Guillemot and Razorbills are doing better. The Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey have become comparatively even more important for nesting seabirds, and it is good to report continued growth in the Manx Shearwater colonies here, since they hold more than half the global population. These islands also hold stable numbers of Storm Petrels and increasing numbers of Puffins. Meanwhile, Wales' only Little Tern colony, in Denbighshire/Flintshire, had one of its best ever seasons, while Arctic Terns on The Skerries also hit another new high.

Mandarin Ducks have been slowly spreading into Wales in recent years, quietly breeding on seldom-watched rivers in the east of the country such that they are doubtless under-represented in vice-county reports. Gatherings of this species are becoming more regular, and a flock of 50 at Dolymynach Res., Brecknockshire, is surely the biggest ever witnessed in Wales. Mandarin is just one species for which BirdTrack could effectively track the spread and increase, and it is welcome to see ever more records of all species contributed to the scheme from Wales.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

ALARCH DOF

(C) Resident breeding species, now increasing in most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3840	4734
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	25%
No of 1km squares	483	503

Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower):
 GWENT: pairs/nests at 30 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 16 pairs bred at 13 sites; GOWER: 11 nesting attempts; eight nests hatched 35 cygnets, 22 surviving to autumn; CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: bred at seven sites;

CEREDIGION: single broods at four sites; BRECON: 11 pairs at six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: single broods at two sites; CAERNARFON: eight pairs bred at seven sites; ANGLESEY: five pairs bred; DENBIGH: nests at seven sites; FLINT: bred at six sites.

Following an almost uninterrupted increase since the early 1980s, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has dropped back significantly since 2010, to mid-1990s levels. The number of sites holding >40 birds at least once during the year (listed below) remains stable, while the frequency of the species' appearance on BirdTrack lists continues to increase.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
St Brides	72	61	34	32	34	6	20	19	14	21		64
R. Usk	61	31	16		3				14		24	49
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	62	65	56	52	49	90	83	91	73	71	71	65
Cardiff Bay	32	55	55	55	55	266	240	119	119	48	9	29
Cosmeston Lakes CP	46	46	47	63	52	48	30	37	51	50	42	40
Knap, Barry	46	44	39	36	39	42	37	41	27	30	35	37
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	47	50	49					22		33	14	32
Sandy Water Park	19	19	19	40	44	69	79	76	43	14	13	12
BRECON												
Llangorse	34	25	15		78	132	173	185	179	161	125	127
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn Marsh	43	46	32							20	36	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	7	5	6	1	30	78	83	101	82	79	17	11
FLINT												
Shotwick					30				9		22	78
White Sands	29	75	75	14	42					3	5	

Counts of 40+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 56 at Llyn Llywenan on 5 Nov.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii***ALARCH BEWICK***(A) Irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Red-listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	44	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	12	7

As in 2015, recorded from only three sites, with a similar number of birds involved. All records are significant since Bewick's Swan has barely registered on Wetland Bird Survey counts since 2002.

All records: GWENT: flock in Usk Valley between Newbridge and Llanllowell in both winter periods (max. counts 14 on 15-21 Feb. and six on 3 Dec.); eight at Goldcliff Lagoons on 24 Feb. and two here on 25 Nov.; FLINT: lower counts on the Dee than usual; max. 22 on White Sands on 17 and 21 Feb. and 16 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 26 Dec.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus***ALARCH Y GOGLEDD***(B) Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties, notably Anglesey, Caernarfon, Montgomery and Meirionnydd. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	113	103
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	50	57

Wetland Bird Survey trends show a long-term decline in numbers visiting Wales; there are only three winters with a lower index than 2015/16. Counts from the main wintering sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN								
Tywi Valley	19	21	31			7	28	45
CEREDIGION								
Cors Caron	5						1	7
MEIRIONNYDD								
Glaslyn Marshes	63	39		13			32	27
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga	19					9	15	11
FLINT								
Dee estuary	31	20	12				27	36

Elsewhere, vice-county totals in each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT							3
E.GLAMORGAN				1		11	
CARMARTHEN		5				4	
PEMBROKE	2		1	1	2	7	
CEREDIGION	12	11	19	1	11	40	
BRECON				2		6	
MONTGOMERY			18		2	9	11
MEIRIONNYDD	3		P		12	16	18
CAERNARFON	1	1	28		8	3	1
ANGLESEY	11	21	2	4	17	48	12
DENBIGH	7	12			4	13	
FLINT	4					1	

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE
Anser brachyrhynchus

GWYDD DROED-BINC

(A) Regular on the Dee Estuary (Flint), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to north Wales. Spring and summer records relate to feral birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	FLINT: Another winter record count on the Dee, with 8500 birds on White Sands on 29 Feb. (cf. peak count in 2009 was 100 birds!). Roving flock also used Shotwick Fields, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR during the winter. The max. count in the second winter period was 2335 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7 Dec.
No of BirdTrack records	63	90	
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	27	26	

Elsewhere, the number of records was fairly typical though skeins of 50 at Gorrddinog/Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON, on 6 Oct. and 80 over Welshpool, MONTGOMERY, on 28 Jan. (included above) are high counts for Wales away from the Dee estuary. PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: a bird on the Teifi from 27 June to 9 July was presumed feral.

Away from the Dee, vice-county totals in each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN			1						
CEREDIGION								1	
MONTGOMERY			80				?*		
MEIRIONNYDD								7	
CAERNARFON							50	8	8
ANGLESEY	1	9							45
DENBIGH		4	1						
FLINT		11	1	1	1		2		15

*MONTGOMERY: A flock of unknown size was heard at night at Llyn Hir on 20 Oct.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
Anser albifrons

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

(B) Scarce winter visitor; Ceredigion supports the only regular flock of *flavirostris*. Rare elsewhere, though hard weather can result in increases in *albifrons* from the east. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016	Greenland White-fronts (<i>flavirostris</i>)
No of BirdTrack records	44	41	There is a long-term decline in this race, with a flyway population of just 22,000 birds. Low breeding productivity is a fundamental problem but Wales is now the only country within its regular home range where their hunting is legal. Wales' sole regular wintering population (on the Dyfi estuary) remains desperately small, with its second lowest count ever in 2016. On 4 Dec., as part of a research project initiated by the Greenland White-fronted Goose partnership, 14 out of 17 birds on the Dyfi were caught. Two were fitted with satellite tags and white neck-collars and ten were fitted with orange neck collars. One of the satellite-tagged birds remained on the Dyfi for the remainder of the winter, the other flew to Wexford Slob, Republic of Ireland, on 12 Dec. with three other birds. All returned to the Dyfi in March 2017 before migrating to Iceland.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	22	19	

All records: CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: up to 23 on the Dyfi estuary during the first-winter period, and 18 (on 18 Nov.) in the second period; PEMBROKE: six at Skomer, then at Marloes, on 4 Nov., reduced to five by 20th, then on Skokholm on 6 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Llyn Llywenan on 9 March; four at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 Oct., then at Llyn Llywenan on 1 Nov. to at least 28th, probably also the birds seen at Llyn Alaw on 7 Nov., reduced to two on 3 Dec.; FLINT: one at several locations in the Dee estuary from 12 Feb. to 5 March.

European White-fronts (*albifrons*)

The highest cumulative total since 2011 thanks to two flocks in Ceredigion.

All records: CEREDIGION: 14 near Llanrhystud on 8 Oct.; up to 16 at Llanon in the following days probably comprised the same birds; 9-16 birds near the Clettwr during 9-15 Oct. was a distinctly separate flock; DENBIGH: one at Pont Canol, Denbigh, on 28 Feb.; four at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, from 22 Feb. to 21 March; three here on 15 Nov.; FLINT: one at Shotwick Fields on 29 Jan.; two at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 27 Feb.

Record not sub-specifically reported: GWENT: one over Marshfield on 26 Jan.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

GWYDD WYLLT

(C) *Most records relate to naturalised birds, mainly in the north, but increasing farther south.*

	2015	2016	Numbers counted by the Wetland Bird Survey made a partial recovery in 2015/16 but remain substantially below their peak in 2004/05. Greylag Goose remains a fairly scarce breeding species; with fewer than 40 nesting pairs reported. Where do all those wintering birds go? Greylag Geese appear to be more migratory in Wales than the 'naturalised' tag might suggest.
No of BirdTrack records	1220	1572	
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%	
No of 1km squares	273	311	

Breeding: GWENT: min. four pairs at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at three sites; GOWER: two broods at Oxwich Lake; CARMARTHEN: 13 pairs at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: bred at Landshipping Quay; BRECON: two broods at Dolymynach Res.; MEIRIONNYDD: possible breeding attempts at Pont Croesor and Ynysfor; CAERNARFON: bred at two sites, possibly at a third; ANGLESEY: at least four broods from three sites; DENBIGH: bred at two sites; FLINT: bred at four sites.

The number of counts over 100 (below) was on par with the 10-year average.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	10	22		4	4		9	68	130	210		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	135	60	78	183	48	51	38	135	153	273	267	110
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	150	45	47						50	135	212	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	30	22	10	1	2	12	19	255	575	330	60	25
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	75	5		3	3		160	10			450	

Counts of 100+ elsewhere: GOWER: 250 over Reynoldstone on 30 Oct. PEMBROKE: 200 at Landshipping

on 15 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: c.100 at Dolydd Hafren on 27 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 260 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 7 Sept.; DENBIGH: 100 at Trevalyn Meadows on 28 Jan.; max. counts at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari: 247 on 22 Feb. and 347 on 29 Nov.; 500+ at Gresford Flash on 10 Oct.; 200 at Denbigh Green on 29 Oct.; FLINT: 142 on Border Pool on 16 Oct.; 200+ over Tremeirchion on 19 Dec.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA

(C) A locally common and increasing introduced breeding resident in most counties.

	2015	2016	Following a huge increase in the 1990s, the Welsh population, measured by the Wetland Bird Survey, has stabilised in the last 15 years. Although the number of sites holding more than 100 birds during the year has trebled in 10 years, counts of 300+ (below) are almost half that of 2014's record
No of BirdTrack records	3466	4457	
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	23%	
No of 1km squares	569	626	

of 26. The September count on the Ogmore estuary is the highest ever count in East Glamorgan.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: 294 goslings in June across 11 sites, but no count of pairs; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed at seven sites, but considered under-recorded; GOWER: 13 pairs at five sites; CARMARTHEN: eight pairs bred at Llyn Bodran Felin; PEMBROKE: seven pairs bred on Skokholm; BRECON: 11 nests/broods at eight sites, plus 75 goslings from an unknown number of pairs at Llangorse Lake; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 pairs at eight sites hatched eight broods; CAERNARFON: bred at minimum of five sites, including only third breeding record (two pairs) on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: at least five broods at four sites; DENBIGH: bred at seven sites; FLINT: bred at Rhyl brickworks and the Clwyd estuary.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore estuary	111	9	21	14	5	13	127	330	646	135	65	63
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan		130	33								426	
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	48	430	32				450		514	128	280	156
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	1547	699	315						1368	1083	1224	328
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	290	185	122			543	415		145	540	435	265
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrhyd	638	264	57						252	382	687	205
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	67	134		24	16		149	346	380			150
Connah's Quay NR	1020	60	300	25	200	250		6	1900			1
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	600	80		12			260	600	200	2000		3000
White Sands	600	30	8		25		191	100	28		16	600

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GOWER: 337 at Neath river saltmarsh on 24 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Newport on 9 Sept., 500 on the Teifi on 13 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 500 at Dolydd Hafren on 7 and 10 Jan.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis***GWYDD WYRAN**

(C) A regular winter visitor in recent years to the Dyfi estuary with smaller numbers at other sites, most probably from the naturalised population breeding in Cumbria. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	75	198
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1
No of 1km squares	27	47

Breeding: BRECON: three nests on the Crannog, Llangorse; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; CAERNARFON: pair present at Caerhun during the breeding season.

Non-breeding: the peak number wintering on the Dyfi, which generally arrive in late September and depart by late December, reached a new record. The flock based each summer on the Crannog, BRECON, has also increased steadily over the last decade.

Approximate monthly totals for each vice-county are tabulated:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	1				1							
E.GLAMORGAN	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
GOWER	1							1				
CARMARTHEN	67		1									
PEMBROKE				3		150		65		1	1	1
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary*	1		50						425		447	
Teifi/Cardigan Island		33						131	130			
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			2	7	7	7+	28	16				
MONTGOMERY					1			1	6		170*	
MEIRIONNYDD	2		15	2	2				1		2	
CAERNARFON		2	2	2	2	2		9				
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Traffwll	6	9							14			
Other sites					7				11	1		
DENBIGH		2	1	2	2				11			
FLINT	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	1	27	30	37	40

*part of flock also recorded in CEREDIGION and MEIRIONNYDD.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla***GWYDD DDU**

(B) A regular wintering population is found in the Burry Inlet and on Anglesey. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	260	295
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	120	111

Dark-bellied Brents (*bernicla*)

Numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey have made a substantial recovery following a decade of decline, thanks to a return to numbers in the Burry Inlet not seen since 2003/04. Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER								
Whiteford	191	268	808			355	291	250
Weobley	810	1075	114			325	638	
Llanrhidian	527	600	867			107	93	380
Wernffrwd/Crofty	490	355	440	5		126	391	240
Penclawdd	22	227	115			5	15	
CARMARTHEN								
Penclacwydd	368	440	251	6		12	15	8
Pwll	35	77	75			255	314	281

Pale-bellied Brents (*hrota*)

Numbers of light-breasted *hrota* have stabilised after a decade of growth. Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	17	2	103	200		25	200+	50	
Traeth Lafan	16	45	45			1		35	55
ANGLESEY									
Alaw estuary	200	250		274		11			
Beddmanarch Bay			270			3	219	250	201
Benllech		6	60						
Red Wharf Bay	34							25	
Traeth Lligwy	25								
Traeth Dulas	54	65	25	48					24

Ringling: Pale-bellied Brent Goose BD RR has been recorded moving around the Irish Sea: at Strangford Lough on 16 Nov. 2014, Caernarfon on 5 Dec. 2014 and Dublin Bay on 26 Jan. 2015. In 2016, it was at Strangford Lough on 5 Oct., then Caernarfon on 31 Oct.

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the above, are tabulated:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>bernica</i>	261	56	29	7	1				15	62	64	161
<i>hrota</i>	113	92	182	113	31			16	51	40	261	110
race unknown	6	4	2						1		1	4

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

GWYDD YR AIFFT

(A) Introduced. Despite the increase in numbers and range in England, records in Wales remain scarce.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	44	17
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	13	6

Records in 2016 were below the ten-year average: GWENT: pair at various coastal locations during April-Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Aberdare Park on 12 March, 30 April and 30 May; BRECON: one at Llangorse Common from 5 Jan. to 12 Feb.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna***HWYADEN YR EITHIN**

(C) A locally common breeding resident in coastal areas, but rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding season: GWENT: 17 broods at five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: three pairs bred at two sites; GOWER: three broods at two sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: bred at 14 sites; survey of Milford Haven Waterway recorded 10 broods, with good nesting productivity in 2016, but long-term decline in numbers; CEREDIGION: broods at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 19-28 pairs on the Glaslyn/Dwyrdd and Broadwater; CAERNARFON: crèche of 39 ducklings at Aber Ogwen; three broods Morfa Aber; five nesting pairs on Bardsey; young fledged at two other sites, but believed to be very under-recorded; ANGLESEY: nine broods at seven sites; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: crèche of 57 at Glan Conwy on 1 July could have hatched on either side									
No of BirdTrack records	2666	3150										
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%										
No of 1km squares	369	398										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Gt Wharf	34	40	72	37	28		3	9	100	88	63	12
Peterstone Pill	34	98	121	45	13	23	29	14	74	155	200	115
St Brides	18	4		14	17	6		12	63	80	106	124
Newport Wetlands	43	127	187	148	61	41	144	207	273	272	110	46
Undy	100	233	108	118	122	234	1	76	198	221	188	376
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	100	180	100	71	35			24	604	300	120	210
GOWER												
Whiteford	313	234	90	10	50	22	6	3			37	10
Weobley	285	95	271	85			9	21	5	178	80	
Llanrhidian	219	411	127	259			13			189	26	28
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	176	466	205	166	119	150	114	10	13	144	121	207
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	216	222	372						3	89	204	245
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	68	84	92						20	66	108	172
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	134	137	80	44		9		1	6	1	1	
Traeth Lafan	434	200	334	1	50	68	13	20	47	317	411	345
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	7	31	51	237	150	180+	107	6			11	17
FLINT												
Rhuddlan, R.Ciwyd	100	161		118	81		17	20			142	
RSPB Point of Ayr	150	76	96	45	52	57	14	200	700	1200	700	198
Flint	1	30	16	27	9	24	155	37	37	15	20	15
RSPB Oakenhol Marsh	320	100	320	150	350	230	500	400	40	40	50	40
White Sands	221	50	122	87	127		24	7	11	10	29	81
Mostyn Bank							145	450	600	300	15	8

of the river; DENBIGH/FLINT: crèches of 60 and 21, and 17 independent juveniles, on the Clwyd estuary on 24 July.

The number of sites holding flocks of 100 birds (above) has been stable for the last six years following a substantial increase the previous decade, although the Wetland Bird Survey index has fallen slightly in the last couple of years.

Counts of 100+ elsewhere: GOWER: 322 at Wernffrwd/Crofty on 30 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 112 on the Gwendraeth estuary in June; 179 off Pwll on 3 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 200 at Malltraeth on 6 Jan.; 110 at Red Wharf Bay on 9 Jan.; 159 on the Braint estuary on 15 Oct.; 302 on the Cefni estuary on 25 Dec.; DENBIGH: 110 on the Clwyd estuary, Rhyl, on 3 Dec.; FLINT: 1000 at Connah’s Quay NR on 20 June.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*
(B) Scarce, but increasing, breeding resident.

HWYADEN GRIBOG

	2015	2016	A substantial increase in records on BirdTrack, but no change in geographic spread. In Gwent, Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Denbighshire, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in vice-county reports. Breeding tends to take place on rivers that are not frequently visited,
No of BirdTrack records	102	172	
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	53	50	

so the 24-ish nesting pairs/broods reported below greatly under-represents a species that will breed along well-vegetated river banks that are hard to monitor.

Breeding pairs: GWENT: five broods on the Monnow, at least two on the Wye and one at Llandegfedd Res. (considered to be an underestimate of population); GOWER: brood on Neath Canal at Clyne; BRECON: seven pairs: brood at Pipton; pair in courtship at Ffordd Fawr; pairs at Llangoed Hall, Llyswen WTW, Dolymynach Res., Boughrood Bridge and below Llanwrthwl; MONTGOMERY: breeding recorded at Lake Vyrnwy, and along Rivers Cain and Tanat. MEIRIONNYDD: brood at Pont Croesor; same or a second at Ynysfor; DENBIGH: broods at five locations in the middle Dee and middle Clwyd valleys.

Other records:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	On Monnow, Wye, Trothy and Llandegfedd Res. Smaller no. at other sites											
GOWER		1			1	1	2	3	3	3	3	4
CARMARTHEN					1						1	
PEMBROKE	1					1					4	1
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
BRECON	1	1	5	1	1				1	1	1	50
MONTGOMERY	Rivers Cain, Tanat, Vyrnwy; Lake Vyrnwy; Coed y Dinas; Powis Castle											
MEIRIONNYDD					1							
DENBIGH	Widely recorded in Dee and Clwyd valleys and the lower Dee floodplain											

Large groups: GWENT: several counts of 10+ near Osbaston (max. count 18 on 22 Nov.) and at Llandegfedd Res. (max. count 15 in mid Oct.); BRECON: 50 at Dolymynach Res. on 26 Dec. is a vice-county record; MONTGOMERY: 11 at Lake Vyrnwy on 23 Oct. was the largest count; DENBIGH: up to 11 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, in Jan.-March; 36 on the R.Clwyd on 15 Nov.

WIGEON *Anas penelope***CHWIWELL**

(C) Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	1680	1912	Breeding: ANGLESEY: a pair was recorded on the Inland Sea on 16 May and may have bred.
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%	
No of 1km squares	272	317	Non-breeding: Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales have returned to 1990s levels following an

increase in the middle of the last decade (Wetland Bird Survey). The number of sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year (below) equals the 2010 high.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Nedern Wetland	299	298	252	34							463	552
Peterstone Pill	200	65	128	6					57	215	240	300
NWR (Goldcliff)	178	292	240	25	2	2	1	4	10	528	1500	640
Newport saltmarsh		74	74								198	462
Undy	25	71	61						126	152	330	284
Mathern/Black	120	88	45					9	250	406	296	270
GOWER												
Whiteford	720	26							1020	1650	1100	42
Weobley									656	640	636	
Penclawdd	13								310	404	182	2
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	218	103	69	9				27	256	339	510	229
Tywi estuary	151	54								97	342	152
Taf estuary	536		28							84	27	18
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	84	86	65						63	350	500	268
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	785	775	712						1095	1079	2250	3079
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	248	335	236	16					3	107	212	173
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	250	75	202							90	384	306
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	285	323	501						675	1123	1211	956
Mawddach	123	62	7						50	305		259
CAERNARFON												
Porthmadog												
Traeth Lafan	738	408	570	1		1						
Foryd	1360	390	128	30		3			2000	1400		
FLINT												
Point of Ayr		2							4	250	500	700
Llawndy, Point of Ayr	311	239	434								106	21
Connah's Quay NR	150	300	70	29	2	1	3	5	4	900		210
Flint saltmarsh	800	2000									5000	
White Sands		600	106	17						15	219	130
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	60	800	400	60	6				23	1000	1200	4000

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 5450 on Pembroke River in Oct.; 2100 at Angle Bay in Nov.; ANGLESEY: 300 at Rhosneigr on 9 Nov.; 324 at Traeth Dulas on 14 Nov.; 750 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 25 Nov.; FLINT: 1000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 23 Dec.; 321 on the Clwyd estuary on 27 Dec.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

CHWIWELL AMERICANA

(A) Rare visitor to Wales from North America. On WRP list. 20 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: a male at Penclacwydd on 30 Oct. was the second vice-county record; CEREDIGION: first-winter male at Ynyslas from 23 Nov. to 1 Dec.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

(C) Regular breeding bird in small numbers on Anglesey, Carmarthen and sporadically elsewhere. A regular winter visitor to most counties in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	Typical number of nesting pairs/broods reported in the breeding season: GWENT: six nests/broods at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Kenfig rivermouth, only second ever vice-county record (previously in 1969); GOWER: two broods at Staffal Haegr; CARMARTHEN: six pairs bred at Penclacwydd; BRECON: possible breeding at Llangorse Lake; CAERNARFON: pair at Aber Ogwen on 23 May; ANGLESEY: bred on The Range (RSPB South Stack), RSPB Valley Wetlands, Llyn Parc Mawr, Llyn Cefni and probably at Llyn Maelog. Birdwatchers are urged to report all breeding season records to their vice-county recorder.
No of BirdTrack records	1257	1131	
% of BirdTrack lists	7	5	
No of 1km squares	133	136	

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Llanwern steelworks	38	13	15	6	3			80	15	14	35	68
NWR (Uskmouth)	10	3	3	10			16	8	61	8	62	25
NWR (Goldcliff)	9	13	10	16	28	26	7	8	23	3	1	2
E GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	29	27	22	10	7	11		2	6	14	36	50
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	11	39	17	40	36	44	21	68	84	10	10	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	90	44	52	56	30	55	40	64	92	149	151	275
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	18	0	6	3	2	0	0	3	7	10	21	30
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy		3	23	9	2	3	2	5	20			7
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill		99	63			29	29	36	50	52	42	42

As elsewhere in the UK, wintering Gadwall in Wales increased markedly since the late 1980s, but few sites hold large numbers, measured by the Wetland Bird Survey. Monthly max. (>20) at the sites above, are in line with the last decade.

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: GOWER: 28 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 24 May; PEMBROKE: 32 at South Hook Pools in Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Penrhyngwyn Pond on 29 Sept.; 37 at Ffos Las on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 69 at Llyn Maelog on 13 June; 25 at Llyn Llywenan on 7 Sept.; 25 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 Oct.; FLINT: 20 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 5 June.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

(C) *Small numbers breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	2584	2678	No confirmed breeding records this year, but no information received from Radnor, the stronghold in Wales. MEIRIONNYDD: single calling males at three sites in suitable habitat in April were potential breeders; CAERNARFON: pair at Cors
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%	
No of 1km squares	374	404	

Bodygynydd in mid May.

Wintering Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s. Counts of 300+ birds recorded at least once during the year shown in table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
NWR (Goldcliff)	198	327	240	32	3	29	18	68	149	200	340	150
Peterstone Pill	140	266	121	89			1	9	20	140	220	338
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	82	132	42	20	2	15	8	227	383	279	194	138
CEREDIGION												
Pembrey Burrows	450	200	100					10		60		15
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	702	192	124						449	675	804	550
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	844*	184	6						488	535	526	514
FLINT												
Connah's Quay	50	80	40	8		1	6	120	38	2	400	132
Point of Ayr	60	50	18	20					172	400	250	400
RSPB Oakenholt	600	120	200	30				100	800	600	1000	700
White Sands			92					48	385	125	121	677

*record count for Meirionnydd

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GOWER: 400 at Weobley on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Landshipping on 6 Dec.; 860 at New Shipping Point in Dec.; 700 at West Williamson on 20 Nov.; 680 on the Eastern Cleddau in Dec.; 580 at Millin Pill in Dec.; 511 at Marloes Mere in Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 300 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 2 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 349 at Ynys on 16 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 350 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on

15 Dec.; DENBIGH: 700 at Holt on 11 March; FLINT: 4300 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 16 Nov. (including English part of reserve).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **HWYADEN WYLLT**
(C) Common and widespread breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a 12% decline since 1995 but has been steady for the last decade. Under-recorded in bird reports: GWENT: 50 broods; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 27 sites; GOWER: 33 broods at 27 sites; PEMBROKE: bred at nine sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 7-13 pairs at nine sites; CAERNARFON: seven pairs at two mainland sites, plus many single broods, and 17 broods on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: broods at four sites; DENBIGH: bred at nine sites; FLINT: bred at seven sites.
No of BirdTrack records	6898	7971	
% of BirdTrack lists	41%	42%	
No of 1km squares	1082	1116	

The long-term decline in wintering Mallards in Britain has been well-reported, and the index for Wales has been falling since the early 1990s, now returning to levels not seen since the late 1960s. The number of sites with a count of 200+ birds during the year is the lowest since 2008.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Nedern Wetland	179	59	36	69	22	16					258	101
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	143	75	65	48	63		125	242	191	229	274	157
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	280	191	91	184	156	162	192	196	387	231	243	299
BRECON												
Ffordd Fawr	42	42	62						250	151	141	220
Llangorse	132	109	65						283	159	134	84
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	232	50	17						123	71	141	20
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	91	220	228		44	27	53	391	382	408	167	408
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh		4	12	2	3	4	100	500	200	80	100	80
Connah's Quay NR	28	42	20	4	200	200	600	300	6	38	6	26

Counts of 200+ elsewhere: GWENT: 203 on the Monmouth & Brecon Canal (14 Locks to Cwmbran) in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 340 on the Dwyfor near Ynys Giffan on 18 June; 280 at Ynys on 29 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 320 at Llyn Llywenan on 24 Oct.; FLINT: 400 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8 Sept.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta***HWYADEN LOSTFAIN**

(B) Occasional passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor to some counties, but scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	510	482
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%
No of 1km squares	109	120

There have been significant declines on the Burry Inlet and Dee Estuary SPAs, both notified for their wintering Pintails, in the last decade but there was a welcome increase in numbers on the Burry Inlet in winter 2014/15 and on the Dee in 2015/16.

These are the two most important sites in Britain for Pintails and helped to boost the Wetland Bird Survey index to its highest level in Wales for seven years. Sites holding 80+ birds shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT										
Peterstone Gt Wharf	4	55	100	10			36	14	11	17
Peterstone Pill	75	58	40	10	2	1	85	175	122	160
E.GLAMORGAN										
Cardiff foreshore	54								10	110
Rhymney estuary	20	32	65	10			24	60	120	80
GOWER										
Whiteford	240	1					110	240		30
Weobley	570		1				7	170	160	
Llanrhidian	1806	342	15				100		303	410
Wernffrwd/Salthouse	200		3	2					300	750
Dalton's Point	62	36	3		1		93	26	98	66
CARMARTHEN										
Penclacwydd	66	11	16	3			9	16	104	47
Gwendraeth estuary	81						60	40	200	12
CEREDIGION										
Ynyslas/Leri estuary	300	224	347					96	120	334
MEIRIONNYDD										
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	200	8	34				5	580*	160	494
CAERNARFON										
Foryd	110	120	110	1				77		15
Traeth Lafan	103	59	30			1	51	179	200	75
FLINT										
RSPB Point of Ayr	120	30	40	21			70	150	250	250
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh			90	220	4	40	120	15		

*vice-county record.

Counts of 80+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 383 off Pwll on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: up to 230 at Malltraeth Cob in Jan. and 209 in Dec.; DENBIGH: 215 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 22 Feb.; 106 at Holt on 11 March; FLINT: 250 at Bagillt on 21 Jan.; 120 at Flint on 26 March; 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 11 April; 1750 at Connah's Quay NR on 19 Oct.; 4000 at Flint on 11 Nov.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

(A) Recorded in small numbers on passage. There have been only five confirmed Welsh breeding attempts and only one since 1991. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	120	152
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	38	28

Following the record 83 birds in 2015, this was a return to the recent average: 30 records involving 42 birds (total in the table below is higher as some birds occurred in more than one month).

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT	2	1	2		1	1		
E.GLAMORGAN	2					3	1	1
GOWER		4						1
CARMARTHEN		1	1		1		1	1
PEMBROKE	2	3	4					
CEREDIGION			1					
ANGLESEY	1			1				
DENBIGH	2		2			2	1	1
FLINT			3			1		

SHOVERLER *Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

(C) Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Breeds in small, but increasing, numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1011	1044
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%
No of 1km squares	135	156

Breeding: eight broods matches the 2015 total: GWENT: two broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); one brood at Llandegfedd Res.; PEMBROKE: two pairs bred on Skomer; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods on The Broadwater;

ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands (14 males present).

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest since 1995/96, though the Burry Inlet population remains strong. Counts of 50+ at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill	2	1						6	66	120	17	20
NWR (Goldcliff)	100	91	34	44	10	5	5	17	31	60	124	64
Nedern Wetland	58	44	40	15							11	12
EAST GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	9	10	13	14					4	10	30	100
Cardiff foreshore	25										7	75
GOWER												
Wernffrwd-Salthouse	120	250							22	76	152	352
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	137	24	6	31	5	4	9	27	75	86	59	86
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	24	52	26	2						6	12	13
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill		14	22			2	4	29	11	12	10	50

Counts of 50+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 75 at Castlemartin Corse on 22 Jan.; DENBIGH: 72 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 7 March.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGOCH

(C) Breeds in small numbers in several vice-counties, otherwise a declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal vice-counties and passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	926	919
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%
No of 1km squares	84	81

The eight broods reported here are markedly lower than the 2014 high-point of 19 nests/pairs: GWENT: one brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); CARMARTHEN: five broods at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at RSPB Valley Wetlands (23 males present) and at Llyn Llywenan.

Wintering Pochard numbers have fallen dramatically in recent decades, down 90% since the late 1960s (Wetland Bird Survey). In 2015, the IUCN 'upgraded' Pochard to Vulnerable status in light of new information about the scale of the decline across its range. Monthly max. (20+ birds) at ten sites, with no flocks >100 birds for the first time.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	2	17	28	11	12	4	1		1	2	4	2
Ynysfro Res.	19	30	24			1					17	15
E.GLAMORGAN												
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	40	44	13	8	2	4	7	5	11	13	14	14
Cosmeston Lakes CP	40	42	52							10	10	8
Kenfig Pool	16	18	20	2			2			6	8	28
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	103		1					5	27			
Fendrod Lake	25	20	13							1	6	13
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	10	18	20	17	11	20	4	2	10	5	4	18
Sandy Water Park	15	6	7	10	5	4	5	29	9	5	17	12
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	20	19	8	1					0	1	6	2

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 35 on Llyn Maelog on 10 Nov.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

(C) Resident breeding species in small numbers in several Welsh counties and a locally common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2328	2623
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%
No of 1km squares	245	245

Breeding: GWENT: three broods at two sites; E.GLAMORGAN: single pairs bred at two sites; GOWER: single pairs bred at two sites; CARMARTHEN: five broods at Penclacwydd;

CEREDIGION: brood at Llyn Nant yr Arian; MEIRIONNYDD: three broods on Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: three pairs at two sites, but no broods; ANGLESEY: broods at four sites; DENBIGH: brood at Gresford Flash; FLINT: single broods at three sites.

Wintering numbers in Wales have increased in the last decade, in contrast to declines in Northern Ireland, but the Wetland Bird Survey indicates that these are now stabilising. Sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year are included below, average for the last decade.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Bryn Bach	25	61	60	20	12	12				40	37	14
Llandegfedd Res.	8	2	9		2			1	2	49	57	40
Nedern Wetland	59	56	31	10	7						9	
Newport Wetlands	2	19	42	45	45	36	8	2	4	P	8	4
Ynysfro Res.	63	58	48	33	8	3	37	39	23	49	38	41
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	127	94	72	36	3	2		4	1	4	44	56
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	246	344	95	55	18	28	185	65	98	55	23	66
Roath Park Lake	136	121	94	9	12	14	9	1	24	59	81	164
Bute East Dock	51	35	23	20	2		1		4	7	21	38
Cardiff Bay	215	113	159	95	30	31	53	20	48	130	75	217
Cosmeston Lakes CP	350	200	98	52	1	1	5	17	49	54	84	147
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.	42				P			36	131			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	148	81	48	79	36	47	26	4	51	56	52	60
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	222	111	68	16					5	63	202	181
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Trawsfynydd	31	28	55									
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill		69	71			82	72	82	109	168	170	133

Counts of 50+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 270 at Llyn Cefni on 4 Dec.; FLINT: 104 at Shotton steelwork pools on 23 Jan.; 52 at Rhyl brickworks on 29 Dec.

SCAUP
Aythya marila

HWYADEN BENDDU

(B) Scarce and local winter visitor, also recorded on passage. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	142	222	Never abundant, Scaup numbers in Wales have returned to 1970s levels, following a marked increase in the 1980s on the Wetland Bird Survey. November and December saw above-average numbers, though Anglesey's Inland Sea accounted for 35% of the total. Up to six in the Burry Inlet was a welcome return after a blank couple of years.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	37	62	

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT											4	
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1	1								3	11
GOWER												
Burry Inlet											6	3
elsewhere			1								1	
CARMARTHEN	1	1	1								1	1
PEMBROKE	2										1	1
CEREDIGION		1	1	1						4	2	1
BRECON	2	1	2									
MONTGOMERY			4									
MEIRIONNYDD											3	3
CAERNARFON			1								4	
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea			3							1	17	19
elsewhere				1					3	1	2	
DENBIGH	6	1	1						1	1	2	1
FLINT		3						2		2	3	2

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

HWYADEN BENDDU LEIAF

(A) Rare vagrant from North America. On WRP list. Seven records in Wales.

E.GLAMORGAN: returning male (annual since Dec. 2008) at Cosmeston Lakes CP and Cardiff Bay from 11 Jan. to 5 May, but not seen in second winter period.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

(C) Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Wintering numbers fell dramatically in early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	120	122
% of BirdTrack lists	1	<1%
No of 1km squares	59	51

Breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: small number present in Tonfanau area but no chicks seen; CAERNARFON: 1-2 broods off Aber Ogwen; ANGLESEY: fledged young around Puffin Island and off Penmon Pool but number of broods not

reported.

The Wetland Bird Survey has issued a High alert for Eiders wintering in Wales, with a 74% decline in the last 25 years, though two of the last seven winters have seen better counts. Counts in the Burry Inlet were slightly up on the last few winters, but down further on the Dysynni estuary and numbers in the Menai Strait have stabilised. The monthly maxima in the principal wintering sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Whiteford	30	34	29	20	5	9	11	16	4	19	35	48
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	6	7			42				10		2	5
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan		1	20	14	30	30	45	17	11	9		2

Other notable records: GOWER: 81 at Weobley on 14 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 32 at Penclacwydd on 10 March; PEMBROKE: 19 west at Amroth on 4 May was the largest flock in the vice-county since 2003; ANGLESEY: 31 in Menai Strait off Aberlleiniog on 23 April; 29 around Puffin Island on 23 June.



Long-tailed Duck (Jeff Slocombe)

LONG-TAILED DUCK
Clangula hyemalis
 (B) Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	104	137	A moderate year, with 23 birds present in November. The long-term outlook is not good, with a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	26	45	

Summary of records for each vice-county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN											1	1
GOWER											5	2
CARMARTHEN											3	4
PEMBROKE										1	1	1
CEREDIGION											2	
BRECON											1	
MEIRIONNYDD			1								1	
CAERNARFON										2	4	3
ANGLESEY	1									1	4	5
FLINT											1	1

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

(C) A locally abundant visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter months. The distribution is predominantly coastal, although it is regular in small numbers on inland waters on passage. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	394	434
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%
No of 1km squares	149	174

The Wetland Bird Survey has issued a high alert for Common Scoter wintering in Wales, owing to a 51% decline in the short-term. 36,000 Common Scoters were counted by aerial survey at the mouth of the Dee estuary (including Wirral and

Merseyside), suggesting that birds from the Denbighshire coast had shifted east. It is welcome that an aerial survey of Carmarthen Bay SPA was undertaken in December 2016, but worrying that the number of scoters present has fallen by 18% in seven years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	5	2000	2000	200							41	15
DENBIGH												
Rhos Point-Towyn	3000	461	600	9	101			2000	420	400	1000	3000

Other notable records: GOWER: 430 off Burry Holm on 28 Feb. and 544 here on 1 Dec.; 587 in Rhossili Bay on 25 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 500 off Telpyn Point in April; 500 off Cefn Sidan on 19 Oct.; 35,211 recorded during an aerial survey of Carmarthen Bay in December (cf. 43,000 birds in 2009); PEMBROKE: 500 Broad Haven on 3 April; 2972 passed Strumble Head, max. 208 on 15 Sept.; 1000+ in St. Brides Bay on 26 Nov.; 2000+ at Amroth on 16 Dec.; RADNOR: 30 in three flocks on the Elan Valley Reservoirs on 5 July; MONTGOMERY: one on Lake Vyrnwy on 17 July, nine here on 26 July, one on 6 Sept. and seven on 12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 350 on the sea off Morfa Harlech on 4 Sept.; CAERNARFON: recorded monthly off Bardsey, peaking with 107 in September; 300 in Tremadog Bay in Sept.; 2000 off the Great Orme and 250 in Traeth Lafan in April are likely to be the Rhos Point-Towyn group; ANGLESEY: 542 in Red Wharf Bay on 19 Jan.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata***MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN**

(A) A rare trans-Atlantic visitor to Wales. On WRP list. Around 60 records.

The regular sightings off the north coast in recent winters make it increasingly difficult to maintain an accurate total of the numbers recorded in Wales. DENBIGH: up to four off Llanddulas until 17 April; up to six here from 16 Oct., the peak count (three adults, immature male and two females/immatures) on 1 Dec.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca***MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD**

(A) A scarce and local winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	51	38
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	15	26

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic have led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International.

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: male off Porthcawl on 3 Jan.; PEMBROKE: one at Wiseman's Bridge on 15 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one off Llanrhystud on 5 Oct.; two off Aberystwyth on 5 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one off Llandanwg on 21 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one off Rhos Point on 13 March; three passed Penychain Head on 16 Oct.; one off the Great Orme on 26 Dec.; four off Aber Ogwen on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: one passed Bull Bay on 1 Nov.; DENBIGH: three off Colwyn Bay/Llanddulas in Jan., at least one remaining into April (last date 24th); two off Horton's Nose/Llanddulas from 15 Sept. to 3 Oct.; up to five off Llanddulas during Dec.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula***HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR**

(C) Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	461	506
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%
No of 1km squares	130	111

The downward trend of the Wetland Bird Survey, that started in the late 1990s, continues with a 33% decline in Wales in the medium term and the index is at its lowest since 1979/80. The number of sites meeting the minimal threshold of 10 birds (in the

table below) was the lowest since the *Welsh Bird Report* was first published.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN								
Ogmore estuary	31	23	16				2	8
Rhaslas Pond	7	8	10	2			4	3
BRECON								
Llangorse Lake	66	70	57	0	0	2	40	44
Talybont Res.	14	9	14	0	0		4	12
MEIRIONNYDD								
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	9	3	12				2	1
CAERNARFON								
Y Foryd	8	4	16	7				2
Traeth Lafan	3	65	31	1			15	44
DENBIGH								
RSPB Conwy	28	13	22	5	3		34	6

Counts of 10+ elsewhere: GWENT: 11 on the R. Usk between Newbridge and Llanllowell in Jan.; CEREDIGION: 11 at Rheidiol GP on 13 Feb.; BRECON: 11 at Dolymynach Res. in Dec.; ANGLESEY: 19 on the Inland Sea on 17 Jan. and 20 here on 4 Dec.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

LLEIAN WEN

(A) Scarce winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from the Continent. Records have declined, qualifying it as a species considered by the Welsh Records Panel from 2017. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3	25
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	3	5

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: female at Kenfig Pool on 14-15 Jan.; CEREDIGION: redhead on Llyn Eiddwen and Llyn Fanod from 24 Jan.to 13 March; redhead on Pond Yr Oerfa on 27 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one reported on Llyn Glasfryn on 20 Jan.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

(C) Locally common winter visitor, particularly to the north Wales coast. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	680	647
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%
No of 1km squares	171	151

Breeding season (under-recorded): MEIRIONNYDD: 8-11 pairs on five estuaries; CAERNARFON: brood seen on the Seiont estuary; ANGLESEY: pairs at several sites, but only brood seen was at Cemlyn.

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen more rapidly than that for the whole of Britain, and now lies at its lowest since 1972/73 (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Monthly max. (20+) are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	7	16	6		4	14	13	54	30	60	22	38
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	4	13	8	3	6	1	1		1	6	22	10

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 22 on Gwendraeth estuary in Jan.; 31 at Cefn Padrig on 26 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 on Broadwater on 23 June; ANGLESEY: 21 off Gallow's Point on 13 July; 20 on the Inland Sea on 4 Dec.; DENBIGH: 17 at Pensarn on 20 Jan. and at Rhos-on-Sea on 21 Jan. (presumed same); 22 at Pentrefelin on 26 July; FLINT: 10 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 29 Jan.; 11 near Rhyl on 26 Nov.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

(C) Breeding resident on most Welsh rivers in mid and north Wales, the population is believed to be slowly expanding but data is lacking. In winter, numbers are augmented by birds dispersing from farther north. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1059	1294
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%
No of 1km squares	358	363

Despite a sustained increase in numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey since the early 1970s, the index for 2015/16 is the lowest for almost a decade. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Coverage

of breeding pairs is far from complete, making it difficult to assess the impact of licences issued by the Welsh Government to shoot Goosanders on some rivers.

Breeding season: GWENT: two broods on the Usk; GOWER: seven broods on four rivers; PEMBROKE: breeding suspected on the Teifi; CEREDIGION: 2-3 broods on the Ystwyth and one brood on the Leri; BRECON: 16+ pairs, including minimum six broods; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records at 27 sites, confirmed at 13; CAERNARFON: four broods at three sites, plus pairs at five other sites; ANGLESEY: brood of eight flightless juveniles at Traeth Dulas on 21 Aug. probably bred nearby, potentially the first recorded breeding on the island; DENBIGH: no records from R.Conwy, following a decline in reports; DENBIGH/FLINT: bred on the Clwyd estuary near Rhuddlan.

Monthly max. (20+) shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	20	25	30	7							3	11
Talybont Res.	10		2	2							9	36
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	7	2	3	5	6	1		20	19	12	5	2
CEREDIGION												
Llyn Eiddwen	4	13	13	4						15	21	35
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	7	3		19	40	65	82	75	65	5	5

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 21 on Teifi Marshes on 25 Sept.; 29 at Bosherton on 1 Dec.; DENBIGH: 20 at Llyn Brenig on 2 Aug.; 20 at RSPB Conwy on 5 Sept.; 55 at Gresford Flash on 19 Nov.; FLINT: 22 at Rhyl on 24 April; 21 here on 1 Aug.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

HWYADEN GOCH

(B) Introduced, former breeding species and scarce winter visitor.

The UK Ruddy Duck population is around 30 males and 10 females (March 2015), down from an estimated 4400 in September 2005 as a result of an eradication programme by Defra, part of an EU-wide project to remove the threat to White-headed Ducks in Europe by 2015. There were no records from Wales in 2016, for the first year since 1973.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix***SOFLIAR**

(A) A scarce and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

A poor year, with just 10 records. All single calling males unless stated: GWENT: near Llantrisant on 1 Aug.; male flushed on slopes of Ysgyryd Fawr on 14 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Llangynwydd-Maesteg on 24 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Penbont Common on 31 May; Cors Caron on 17 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 21 May, 17 June and 9 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 8 June; DENBIGH: north of Llyn Brenig on 22 May.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa***PETRISEN GOESGOCH**

(D) Populations, in majority of areas where this species is found, now probably maintained by release schemes.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	64	101
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	49	63

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus***GRUGIAR**

(B) Breeding resident on heather uplands, declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	66	83
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	46	51

Slight increase in BirdTrack records, but presumed greatly under-recorded. GWENT: broods on Mynydd Maen, Coity Mountain and Mynydd Varteg Fawr; highest count was 40 birds on The Bloreng on 29 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at traditional site on 15 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: one site, peak count of five in Feb. and Nov.; CEREDIGION: calling at Nant yr Arian and Pumlumon; BRECON: recorded at 16 locations including males or pairs in spring at four sites; MONTGOMERY: present at Lake Glaslyn and Lake Vyrnwy in small numbers; MEIRIONNYDD: multiple records from the Berwyns, Arenigs and Rhinogs, with 128 territories recorded during Black Grouse surveys in the Berwyns and Migneint (cf. 112 in 2015); CAERNARFON: small numbers in the northern Carneddau and Migneint; DENBIGH: increase in records, most from Ruabon Mountain (max. count 31 on 15 March), and smaller numbers around Llyn Brenig, Berwyn Mountain and Moel Famau. One at Llyn Serw, above Ysbyty Ifan, was the first record from the area.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix***GRUGIAR DDU**

(B) Breeding resident on moorlands of north and mid-Wales, recent increase in numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	66	74
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	22	27

Lek surveys organised by RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Cofnod found 361 lekking males, down from 419 in 2015, but still the second highest since monitoring began in 1997. Wet weather in July

2015 (40% higher than average) is likely to have reduced breeding success and so reduced the number of first-year birds on leks. The monitoring area again excluded Llanbrynmair, MONTGOMERY, owing to access restrictions.

Counts of lekking males: MONTGOMERY: nine at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: seven in the northern Migneint; four in the southern Migneint/Arenig Dduallt; six on Palé Moor/Sirior; DENBIGH: 17 in Clocaenog Forest; 20 on Moel Famau; 23 in the North Berwyn; 251 on Ruabon Moor; 12 on Llandegla Moor; 11 at Llantysilio.

Additional records reported to vice-county recorders during breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: one at Moel Ysgyfarnogod (Rhinog) on 20 March; DENBIGH: one at Fenn’s Moss on 5 May; two at Blean Bache on 15 May; female on Mynydd Hiraethog on 4 Nov.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **PETRISEN**
(A) *Almost extinct as a breeding species in much of Wales. Populations, in majority of areas where this species is found, are probably maintained by release schemes. Wales Red listed.*

	2015	2016	Population maintained by releases.
No of BirdTrack records	6	7	E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Nash Point on 10 Jan.; two at Aberthaw on 5 and 8 May; six at Llanmaes on 26 Oct.; 12 at Gileston on 11 Nov.; ANGLESEY: one near Brynteg on 25 June; two near Trefor on 4 July, the first sightings on the island since 2013; FLINT: one near Afonwen on 13 May; one at Bryn Golau on 17 July.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	6	7	

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **FFESANT**
(D) *A locally common breeding resident, widespread throughout Wales. Population in many areas is maintained by releases, but few records included in vice-county reports.*

	2015	2016	The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a 47% increase since 1995, most of the increase occurring in the first five years of this century.
No of BirdTrack records	1912	1896	
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	10%	
No of 1km squares	645	615	

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH**
(B) *Winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded off-shore, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016	The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new low in 2015/16, although there are big gaps in coverage along coastal areas.
No of BirdTrack records	221	216	
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%	
No of 1km squares	102	109	

Counts from the main sites, with 20 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	23	17	16	9	2				12	19	52	97
Llansant-Aberaeron		7	17						2	33	12	20
Aberystwyth	9	2	2	1						2	23	3
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	2	20	131							1	1	
Traeth Lafan	10	44	139	2							9	25
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas									2		27	

Max counts elsewhere: GWENT: adult and juvenile at Llandegfedd Res. on 22 Dec., first vice-county record since Nov. 2013; E.GLAMORGAN: record flock of 40 off Nash Point on 2-7 Dec.; 17 still present on 24th; GOWER: four off Mumbles Head on 1 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Cefn Sidan on 18 Nov.; PEMBROKE: max. day count 35 off Amroth on 16 Jan.; 62 off Strumble Head during the year (max. day count 14 on 20 Jan.); CEREDIGION: max. counts not included in table above: 11 at New Quay in Jan. and 14 here in March; three off Mwnt on 16 Jan.; up to three at Teifi estuary in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 19 off Mochras on 19 Jan.; five off Morfa Harlech on 20 Nov.; four off Broadwater on 20 Nov.; CAERNARFON: c.15 off Penrhyn Bay on 28 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 11 off Traeth Lligwy on 2 Jan.; five passed RSPB South Stack on 5 April and seven passed on 25 April; one inland, over Brynteg, on 7 Oct.; 15 off Benllech on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: 16 off Pensarn on 20 Jan.; 12 off Llanddulas on 25 Oct.; FLINT: single off RSPB Point of Ayr and Talacre on 10 Jan.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

(A) Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded in small numbers annually. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	All records: E.GLAMORGAN: two off Porthcawl on 14 Nov.; one off Sker Point on 20 Nov.; GOWER: one at Rhossili from 26 Nov. to 1 Dec.; one in Bracelet Bay on 21 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: one off Cefn Sidan on 2 Oct.; PEMBROKE: single birds at St.
No of BirdTrack records	24	31	
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	17	21	

Brides on 3 Jan.; Broad Haven (N) on 28 Feb.; Amroth on 16 Dec. and Teifi estuary on 18 Dec.; singles passed Strumble Head on 18 Oct., 10 Nov. and 1 Dec.; CEREDIGION: two off Borth on 26 Nov.; one in the Teifi estuary on 18-19 Dec. and two here on 20 Dec.; CAERNARFON: one off Llanfairfechan on 27 Feb.; one passed Bardsey on 22 May and two passed on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one off Traeth Bychan on 16 Jan.; one off Aberlleiniog on 9 April; one passed Point Lynas on 22 Nov.; DENBIGH: one off Rhos-on-Sea on 24 March; one off Pensarn on 10 April.



Great Northern Diver (Jeff Slocombe)

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*
(B) Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Recorded from inland waters.

TROCHYDD MAWR

	2015	2016	Increased numbers reported during Jan./Feb., partly due to the non-estuarine waterbird survey (NEWS). Notable counts: GOWER: up to eight off Whiteford during Jan. and Feb. (max. count on 16 Jan.); PEMBROKE: 15 between St Brides Haven and Little Haven on 1 Jan.; eight in Fishguard Harbour on 3 Jan.; 11 passed Strumble Head during the year (max. day count two on 2 Dec.); CEREDIGION: summer-plumaged bird off New Quay on 8 June; CAERNARFON: one off Bardsey on 23 June was an unusual date; ANGLESEY: adult in breeding plumage off RSPB Ynys Feurig on 12 June.
No of BirdTrack records	320	290	
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%	
No of 1km squares	137	124	

Approx. monthly totals for each vice-county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	4								1			5
CARMARTHEN	3	3	3	3						1		1
PEMBROKE excl Strumble	24	2	2	2					1	3	7	
CEREDIGION	3	2	3	2		1				1		1
MEIRIONNYDD	7	3		1							2	
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	1		1								1	
Traeth Lafan	3	5	1									2
Caernarfon Bay	1	1	8	2						1	1	15
Glaslyn estuary	1	4										
Bardsey	2	1	3	1		1				1	1	
ANGLESEY	17	9	11			1					7	4
DENBIGH	2											3

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Thalassarche melanophris***ALBATROS AELDDU**

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Two previous records in Wales.*

CAERNARFON: a sub-adult past Bardsey on 16 Oct is the first for the vice-county, and was seen at other locations off western Britain during the month.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis***ADERYN-DRYGIN Y GRAIG**

(C) *A numerous species, breeding in most coastal counties. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016	The trend around much of Wales, confirmed by long-term monitoring at sites such as the Castlemartin peninsula, is one of gradual decline over the last 20 years, although the Pembrokeshire islands seem to be bucking that trend.
No of BirdTrack records	704	676	
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%	
No of 1km squares	217	216	

Breeding: PEMBROKE: counts in table below generally show small increases compared to 2015, but still lower than 2014, except on the islands, particularly on Skokholm which had a record year. Productivity on Skomer was also up, from 0.35 to 0.43 chicks per AOS; CAERNARFON: no significant change since the last count, but 51 at Murian contrasted with just three in 2014, while the three at Porth Ceiriad West was a large decline on 45 in 2014. The only previous count at Ynys Piod was as far back as 1986, when there were only four occupied sites. The Bardsey count was the lowest since 2013, and a 51.6% decrease on last year. Breeding also recorded on the Great Orme and Little Orme. ANGLESEY: bred at Traeth Bychan, Benllech and cliffs south of Traeth Lligwy. No counts were received from CEREDIGION or MEIRIONNYDD.

County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)	County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)	County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)
E. GLAMORGAN		PEMBROKE		CAERNARFON	
Nash Point	15	Caldey	91	Maen Du	15
Cwm Nash	16	St Margaret's Is	20	Mynydd Anelog	1
Llantwit Major	10	Castlemartin	82	Pen y Cil	1
		Skomer	675	Ynys Piod	18
GOWER		Skokholm	194	Ebolion	1
Spaniard Rocks	3	Ramsey	277	Maen Gwenonwy	2
Culver Hole	1	Nolton Haven	29	Murian	51
Blue Pool	1			Porth Ceiriad E	4
Rhossili/Mewslade	1	ANGLESEY		Porth Ceiriad W	3
		Carmel Head	8	Port Gwylan	3
CARMARTHEN		North/South Stack	18	Porth Iago	5
Telpyn Point	16	Puffin Island	18	St Tudwal's Is W	3
				Trwyn Cilan	4
		DENBIGH		Trwyn Penrhyn	15
		Llanddulas	9	Bardsey	15
		Colwyn Bay	8		

Other large counts or interesting records: E.GLAMORGAN: 25 off Irongate Point on 20 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: three off Cefn Sidan on 8 April, and one there on 22nd; PEMBROKE: max. day count at Strumble Head 300+ on 4 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 60 off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 at Fairbourne on 27 Jan. loitering in the vicinity of the breeding cliff; CAERNARFON: 30 at Rhos Point on 2 March; c.30 at the Great Orme on 30 Nov. and c.40 here on 11 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 15 off Benllech on 6 Jan.; DENBIGH: 12 on quarry ledges at Llanddulas on 27 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

ADERYN-DRYGIN CORY

(A) Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn. On WRP list. 104 previous records.

All single birds: PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 8 Aug.; at sea on 18 Aug.; CEREDIGION: off New Quay on 9 Aug. was the second record for the vice-county.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

ADERYN-DRYGIN MAWR

(A) Scarce autumn passage migrant, on WRP list. 256 previous records.

PEMBROKE: a good showing off Strumble Head, with 13 birds: two on 8 Aug., three on 21st and a single on 28th, four on 2 September and singles on 4th, 16th and 25th. One recorded at sea from a boat on 18 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one passed Bardsey on 10 Sept.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN DU

(B) A scarce passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally during late August to early October. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	25	46	E.GLAMORGAN: one past Porthcawl on 3 Aug. was the ninth vice-county record; PEMBROKE: at Strumble Head a much better showing than 2015: 81 birds on 15 dates between 4 Aug. and 29 Sept. (max. count 26 on 4 Sept.); one off Skokholm on 21 Aug., three here on 3 Sept. and one on 4 Sept.; off Skomer, a record year, including seven on 4 Sept. and a single on 16 Oct.; one off Ramsey on 20 Aug.; CEREDIGION: two off Aberporth on 2 Aug.; one off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; one off Mwnt on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three off Bardsey on 21 Aug.; singles here on 3 and 11 Sept., three on 25 and two on 29 Sept., two on 16 Oct. and one on 18th.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	8	129	

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN MANAW

(C) Breeding on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey. Large feeding movements and autumn passage are regular off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON).

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	292	299	Breeding: PEMBROKE: Skokholm had the highest response rate across 8000 square metres of sampled burrows since 2008 (n=588). The breeding population was cautiously regarded as being
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%	
No of 1km squares	96	104	

stable, supported by evidence from an adult ringing programme, which gave an overall return rate of 81.27% (cf. 77.34% in 2015 and 82.27% in 2014). From 155 study burrows 105 chicks reached fledging size, giving a productivity of 0.68 fledging sized chicks per breeding pair (67.74% of pairs in the study areas produced a fledging sized chick), almost identical to the 2015 figure. On Skomer, the number of responses (1273) was up slightly on 2015 as was the number of burrows (4010). A breeding success of 0.63 fledged young per egg laid was recorded, slightly higher than the five year average of 0.62 (2012-2016) and the 1995-2016 average of 0.62. On Ramsey, 4796 occupied burrows were recorded (cf. 3835 occupied burrows in 2012); CAERNARFON: census on the western side of Bardsey Mountain and the North End recorded 5370 burrows (4937 AON). (cf. 4729 burrows - 4071 AON – in 2009). The total number of burrows on Bardsey has increased by 30.4% to just under 21,000 pairs.

Other large counts or interesting records: GWENT: only three sightings, significantly fewer than in recent years: singles off Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) in Feb., and at Peterstone Wentlooge on two dates in Sept; E.GLAMORGAN: 1952 from Irongate Point in three hours on 10 July, and 110 here on 20 Aug.; GOWER: 500+ off Burry Holm on 12 July; CARMARTHEN: from Cefn Sidan: c. 800 on 5 May, 1080 on 4 June and 360 here on 17 Aug.; PEMBROKE: at Strumble Head first recorded on 3 Jan and last on 23 Dec.; CEREDIGION: up to 3000 off Borth/Ynyslas in June and July and 11,000 on 16 Aug.; 1200 passed Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 500+ in Morfa Nefyn Bay on 15 July; c.500 off Mynydd Mawr on 12 Aug.; 340 off Criccieth on 15 Aug. and 400+ here on 1 Sept.

Monthly max counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	0	0	445	1007	4425	3125	6164	15541	2180	77	1	0

ANGLESEY: largest movements passing RSPB South Stack included 1348 on 25 April and 3337 on 26 April, 1725 on 5 July and 3574 on 27 July; 8000 moved west in 2.5 hours at Point Lynas on 29 July; DENBIGH: seven off Horton’s Nose on 21 May and at least one here on 14 June.

Inland vice-county records: BRECON: following storms off West Wales, one was photographed, apparently alive and well, during a sailing regatta at Llangorse Lake on 4 Sept., the first live vice-county record since 2010. On 3 Oct., a partly-consumed head and bill were found among prey remains taken by Peregrine Falcons under St. Mary’s Church tower in Brecon; RADNOR: one, dead, at Llanelwedd on 6 Sept.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

ADERYN-DRYCYN MOR Y CANOLDIR

(C) A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	59	61
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	12	16

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Porthcawl on 20 Aug. is the eighth vice-county record; GOWER: one at Port Eynon on 22 Aug.; one in Rhossili Bay on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 79 birds off Strumble Head: 12 in Aug., 66 in Sept. and one in Oct. (max day count 15 on 4

Sept.); 12 birds off Skomer (a record year) including one on 13 April; off Skokholm, 15 recorded (max. five on 14 Sept.); one off Ramsey on 28 Aug.; CEREDGION: two off Mwnt on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: singles off Bardsey on 17 July, then four dates in Aug., two dates in Sept. (plus four on 3rd) and the last on 17 Oct.; two passed Porth Ysgaden on 4 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one passed Cemlyn on 13 Sept.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus***PEDRYN DRYCIN**

(C) Breeds regularly on several island sites off the west coast, mainly in very small colonies. Skokholm holds the only population over 1000 pairs. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS).

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	39	61
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	19	19

Breeding: PEMBROKE: whole Island census on Skokholm predicted 1910 AOS, a figure which is considered the most accurate Skokholm total to date (Wood *et al.*, 2017). Twelve study burrows produced a productivity figure (0.58 fledglings per pair), very similar to the 2015 figure but down on 0.69 recorded in 2014; on Skomer, a whole-island census produced an estimated 220 AOS (95% CL: 195-252), which seems stable since 2003/4 when the last whole-island census took place; on Ramsey 12 AOS were recorded (cf. five here in 2014); CAERNARFON: on 24 June, a short playback survey of the Seal cove area of Bardsey produced 15 responses, and a chick was heard calling on the East Side on 22 July. It is hoped that a complete census of Storm Petrels will take place on the island in 2017.

Other large counts or interesting records: E.GLAMORGAN: four passed Irongate Point on 18 May, six lingered close inshore here on 21 May; 17 off Lavernock Point on 21 Aug.; GOWER: three off Margam breakwater and one off Port Eynon Point on 22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 33 off Strumble Head was the highest annual count for many years (max. count 18 on 21 Aug.); Teifi Ringing Group caught five birds here on 5 June; 35 ringed on Grassholm on 5 Aug., plus seven controls from elsewhere; CEREDIGION: one off Aberporth on 2 Aug.; CAERNARFON: record 146 individuals tape-lured to mist-nets on Bardsey over the summer, including 30 on 21 July: 20 had been ringed previously, 17 on Bardsey.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa***PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG**

(A) A scarce autumn visitor, commonest off the north Wales coast. Wales Amber listed.

E.GLAMORGAN: one off Porthcawl on 10 July; PEMBROKE: one at Strumble Head on 30 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one off Llanrhystud on 9 Oct was briefly chased by an Arctic Skua.

GANNET *Morus bassana***HUGAN**

(C) A common bird offshore throughout the year, most plentiful during the extended breeding season, March – October. One major breeding colony on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	713	742
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%
No of 1km squares	250	272

Breeding: PEMBROKE: bred on Grassholm but no census records this year.

Other interesting records: GWENT: one off Newport Wetlands Reserve in Feb.; one on 20-22 Aug. at the Second Severn Crossing, Sudbrook and Newport Wetlands on consecutive dates; E.GLAMORGAN: 32 from Sker Point on 3 Aug.; 15 from Irongate Point on 10 July and 18 on 20 Aug.; GOWER: 175 at mouth of Burry Inlet on 9 Nov.; 250 in a feeding frenzy between Broughton Bay and Pembrey on 4 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: from Cefn Sidan, c.100 on 18 Oct., 106 on 17 Nov. and 220 on 3 Dec.; PEMBROKE: the max. monthly counts from Skomer and Skokholm were 138 and 6694, both in Sept.; CEREDIGION: 720 in two hours off Teifi estuary and 300 off New Quay on 29 Sept.; 275 off Llansantffraed on 9 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 140 off Tonfanau on 25 Sept.; 50 feeding off Trefeddian shore,

Aberdyfi, on 4 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 100 off the Great Orme on 24 April; c.180 off Rhos Point on 25 April. Monthly max. count off Bardsey was 898 in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 fishing off Traeth Bychan on 25 Sept.; 216 west at Point Lynas on 19 Oct.; DENBIGH: max. count was 30 at Llanddulas on 24 April; FLINT: three off Gronant on 13 June and 3 Aug.; one found on a playing field at Shotton was taken into care on 5 July.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

(C) Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequently seen offshore in other counties. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). A regular visitor to inland freshwaters. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	4810	5657
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	29%
No of 1km squares	832	899

Breeding: GWENT: 40 AON on Denny Island where 35 fledged young were recorded on 18 June; PEMBROKE: 172 AON on St Margaret's Island (cf. 179 AON in 2015, 192 AON in 2014). Four AON on Skomer (cf. six in 2015) fledged six young (a success rate of 1.5 per nest); CAERNARFON: 74 AON at St Tudwal's Island East (cf. 80 AON in 2014, JNCC). No birds bred on Ynys Gwylan Fawr. It was not possible to land on Ynys Gwylan Bach to undertake a full count, but from Ynys Gwylan Fawr and the sea, eight nest platforms containing 17 large juveniles were counted. Assuming that this is the whole island population, this is 78% lower than the 2007-2016 mean, but the productivity of 2.13 chicks/nest was 29.1% higher than the ten-year mean; ANGLESEY: 265 breeding adults on Puffin Island on 23 June.

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached an all-time high in 2015/16 thanks to big counts in Colwyn/Penrhyn Bay (1318), the Dee estuary (598) and the Clwyd estuary (300).

Other large counts of 50+: GOWER: 70 at Weobley-Landimore on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 57 at Skokholm on 13 Sept.; BRECON: 85 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 3 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 196 in the Pont Briwet area on 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: c.50 at Llandudno on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 52 near Church Island on 16 March; DENBIGH: 144 at Kinmel Bay on 24 Nov.; 100+ at Rhos-on-Sea on 27 Nov.; 63 at Llanddulas on 16 Oct.; FLINT: 1050 in three groups during a high tide roost at Gronant on 11 Nov. and 641 here on 13 Nov.; 237 on the R. Clwyd between Rhuddlan and Rhyl on 24 Aug.; 50 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13 Nov.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

MULFRAN WERDD

(C) A regular breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower northwards to Anglesey. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON).

Breeding: PEMBROKE: one AON on Caldey (a decrease since 2015 but the same as in 2014); three AON on St Margaret's Island (the same as in 2015 but only half the number recorded in 2014); two AON along the Castlemartin peninsula showed little sign of a recovery from last year's 30-year low (one AON); 14 nests on Middleholm contained a minimum of 33 chicks on 18 June (2.36 chicks per AON); six AON on Skomer (two more than in 2015) fledged eight young (1.33 per nest); CAERNARFON: counts of occupied nests at various sites in Llŷn (JNCC) were:

The 80 occupied nests on the St Tudwal's Islands compares with 61 in 2014; on Bardsey, last year's total

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	58	65	58	41	16	21	46	53	78	81	57	66
Roath Park	14	4	59	4	1	1	6	10	16	7	20	69
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	20	9	28	12	6	14	55	33	36	87	41	19
GOWER												
Whiteford	18	9	37	20	10	22	47	54	69	67	51	15
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	27	50	55	30	10	43	30	38	32	75	63	14
Burry Port	90	72										189
Cefn Sidan	7		8						20		52	32
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	3	1	4							25	50	
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas/Borth									58		97	47
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	82	37	85						43	17	30	56
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	12	0	2						51	29	0	21
Broadwater	7								50	55	39	
Dwyrdd	3		25	7				50				
Morfa Harlech				25	37		121		153			
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	15	8	37	1	2	1	10	42	57	44	57	35
Great Orme	1	4	2	5+	2	1	30	1	2	85+	1	8
Little Orme	19	60	40+	100+	1+		c120	1101	c40	c250	c200	
Rhos Point	10	30+	5	c40	c30			2	13	c200	400+	5+

nesting pairs was matched, giving a 17.5% higher population than the 2007-16 mean. A minimum of 67 juveniles fledged, a productivity figure of 1.71 young per pair, 33.6% higher than last year but 10% below the 2007-16 mean; visits to Ynys Gwylan Fawr located a minimum of 41 nest platforms, 30.8% below the 2007-2016 mean. The total of 68 fledged young and the resulting productivity figure of 1.66 is poor, the latter being 17% below the 2007-2016 mean; there was apparently none nesting on Ynys Gwylan Bach; occupied nests were also reported at Trefor; ANGLESEY: bred at Point Lynas; 105 occupied nests on Puffin Island on 23 June.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a modest recovery from the low point in 2009/10.

Monthly max. counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON

Max. counts elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: up to three from Porthcawl to Sker Point on nine dates from 4 to 28 Jan.; GOWER: eight at Port Eynon Point on 15 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: singles at Burry Port on 21 March and at Telpyn Point on 27 June; PEMBROKE: 11 on Skokholm on 13 Aug.; 11 between St Bride’s and Little Haven in Jan.; CEREDIGION: 11 at Ynyslas on 16 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: five at Aberdyfi on 22 Dec.; CAERNARFON: away from Bardsey, 12 at Traeth Lafan in Dec.; 15 at Great Orme in April; 20+ at

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	680	671
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%
No of 1km squares	249	232

Little Orme in Jan.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Ynys Llanddwyn on 1 Jan; 12 at Cemlyn on 5 Sept.; 20 off Rhosneigr on 9 Nov.; 12 at Church Island on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: nine at Llanddulas on 19 Dec.; FLINT: only record was a single at Gronant on 29 May.

Site	AON	Site	AON
Braich Anelog	3	Porth Gwylan	3
Maen Du	1	St Tudwal's Island East	50
Maen Gwenonwy	1	St Tudwal's Island West	30
Murian	4	Trwyn Cilan	1
Penymynydd	1		

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

ADERYN Y BWN

(A) Scarce but regular winter visitor, and breeding again on Anglesey since 2016. Wales Amber listed.

A landmark year as Bitterns boomed at five sites, breeding successfully at RSPB Cors Ddyga, the first on Anglesey – and Wales – since the mid 1980s.

Breeding: GWENT: one booming at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) from late March to early May, the first record of a territorial Bittern in Gwent in recent times; ANGLESEY: one boomed at RSPB Valley Wetlands from 7-20 April, possibly the same bird at Plas Bog on 7-27 May; one boomed at Cors Erddreiniog on 8 June; present at RSPB Cors Ddyga throughout the summer where a pair bred

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	4	14	24	26	85	65	95	79	35	54	34	8

successfully.

Other records: GWENT: sporadic reports at both ends of the year at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) may have related to the territorial bird mentioned above; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig Pool on several dates in Jan., Nov. and Dec.; one at Forest Farm on several dates in Jan. and on 17 Dec.; one at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 15 dates from 17 Jan. to 3 April and on nine dates from 7 Nov. to 29 Dec., but two on 20 Nov.; GOWER: singles at Half Round Pond on 23 Jan., Oxwich South Pond on 14 Feb. and 18 Nov., Llanrhidian Marsh on 19 and 27 Feb. and at nearby Staffal Haegr on the latter date; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd from 22 Jan. to 15 Feb and one here on 3 April; PEMBROKE: one at Llangloffan Fen on 30 March; one at Stackpole on 15 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one at Teifi Marshes from 17 Jan. to 4 April, two here on 21 March, and one on 29-30 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one at Cors Caron on 31 Jan.; one at Cors Fochno on 15 March and on 16 Dec.; one at Rhos Llawr Cwrt on 20 Sept.; BRECON: sightings from Llangorse Lake in Jan., March, July and Nov.; MONTGOMERY: one at Cors Dyfi on 10-17 Jan. and on 23 March; MEIRIONNYDD: one at the Broadwater on 12 Nov.; CAERNARFON: one at the Spinnies, Aber Ogwen, on 13 Jan.; one at Llyn Ystumllyn on 31 July; one at Hell's Mouth on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: see breeding records above; up to three were at RSPB Cors

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	62	101
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	19	27

Ddyga (including at least one juvenile) from Aug. to the year's end; one at Llyn Llywenan on 8 and 9 Oct.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides*

CREYR MELYN

(A) *Rare visitor from Mediterranean. On BBRC list. Nine previous records.*

E.GLAMORGAN: one at The Watermill, Ewenny, on 29 May performed all day for its many admirers. This is the fourth vice-county record of the species; PEMBROKE: a first-winter bird at Westfield Pill on 9 Oct., then at Llangwm on 25-27 Oct., then Narberth on 1-7 Nov., and finally at Pentlepoir and Saundersfoot on 11-12 Nov.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

(A) *A scarce visitor, on WRP list. 44 previous records.*

A record 18 this year, a trend that looks set to continue with breeding having now occurred across the Bristol Channel in Somerset and less than a mile from the Welsh border on the Dee estuary.

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 15 Oct. was the sixth record for the vice-county; E.GLAMORGAN: two over Cardiff Bay on 6 May; one at Wentlooge Level and Hendre Lake on 26 Dec. are the fourth and fifth vice-county records; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 5 Nov. was the ninth vice-county record, and the sixth for the site; PEMBROKE: one at Newport from 10 Dec. into



Squacco Heron (Jeff Slocombe)

2017, presumed same as at Goodwick on 15 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one at Llansantffraed on 8 Oct.; ANGLESEY: five near Pont Marquis from 25 Dec. into 2017; FLINT: five at Shotwick Boating Lake on 19 Oct. and 4 Nov. and at White Sands on 5 Nov.; singles at Saltney on 17 Oct. and at Shotton on 22 Dec.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

CREYR BACH

(B) *Now a scarce but increasing breeder and a fairly common autumn migrant and winter visitor, with*

a distinct influx in autumn. Wales Green listed.

Thirteen colonies, most within existing Heronries, held around 85 nests, with speculation about breeding in Brecknockshire and Flintshire.

Breeding: GWENT: breeding confirmed at an established site on the Gwent Levels; new colony at Magor Marsh held four nests, three of which were occupied; GOWER: the first established colony was deserted, but a second held 24 nests at which 36 juveniles were counted; CARMARTHEN: at least six pairs bred at one site; BRECON: breeding suspected but yet to be confirmed; MEIRIONNYDD: 7-10 pairs: at least two nests in a heronry at Aberdyfi; it would appear they have bred here for at least 3-4 years, pre-dating the first breeding records in 2015; an estimated 3-5 pairs at Dol-rhyd, Dolgellau; three birds around a nest in the heronry at Minffordd on 3 June; CAERNARFON: 17 pairs bred in Llandygai area in a new site where dense vegetation makes accurate counting of nests impossible; at least six nests in Coed Benarth, Conwy; ANGLESEY: minimum of 12 juveniles in the Bodorgan heronry; up to three breeding pairs in the heronry on the Inland Sea; DENBIGH: nine nests near Tal-y-Cafn; FLINT: report of nesting activity at Talacre on 12 May.

Non-breeding: it is no surprise to discover that the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2015/16, having recovered from the setback at the start of the decade probably caused by two hard winters.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3005	3255
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	15%
No of 1km squares	435	449

A summary of counts at the main sites (30+ at least once):

Other counts of 30+ birds or interesting sightings: GOWER: 30 at Hambury Wood on 2 Jan.; 40 at The Goose/Landimore on 4 May; CARMARTHEN: 120 roosted at Machynys Pond on 26 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 33 on the Dyfi estuary on 12 Jan., 60 here on 18 Oct.; RADNOR: up to nine in lower Wye Valley throughout year; MONTGOMERY: max. count of six at Dolydd Hafren on 14 Jan.; CAERNARFON: c.70 around Coed Benarth, Conwy, on 30 July; ANGLESEY: 45 on the Cefni estuary on 31 July; DENBIGH: 132 at RSPB Conwy and the adjacent estuary on 8 Oct.; high tide roost at Pentrefelin, also in the Conwy Valley, held 124 on 27 Aug.; FLINT: max. count 43 at Connah's Quay NR on 16 Sept.

Ringling: CARMARTHEN: a colour-ringed individual at Kidwelly Quay on 16 Oct. had been ringed as a nestling at Verulamium Lake, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, on 1 June 2016.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

(A) An increasingly regular visitor, occurring at any time of the year.

A breakthrough year, with a number of long-staying individuals resulting in the species registering on more than 1% of all BirdTrack lists for the first time. At least 50 individuals around Wales, and groups

of six in Gower and Caernarfonshire/Denbighshire. With breeding in several English counties in summer

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT * = roost counts												
Magor Marsh	23*	25*	24*	2	2	20*	42*	34*	4	28*	28*	5
Nedern Wetland	4	1	2	8	21	52					1	1
GOWER												
Llanrhidian	73	60	65	24	24	12	29	30	13	72	94	58
Upper Loughor	2	3	14	6	3	7	26	26	47	38	10	3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	7	13	12	18	12	14	66	96	23	32	26	12
Gwendraeth est.	9		5		1	2	14	22	30	39	11	
Taf est.	9	1	7	9				6	32	10	9	4
PEMBROKE												
Cledau est.	20	15	33			3	20		59	58	31	22
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	25	8	21						43	15	21	18
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	4	10	10	1	13	16	52	169	162	126	36	17
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	17	11	10	20	4	13	30	45	30	53	13	21

2017, it's time to check our heronries carefully.

GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff Lagoons) on 7 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct.; one at Kenfig Pool on 27 Nov.; GOWER: up to six in the Burry Inlet on dates throughout the year (max count on 2 Dec.); two at Blackpill on 11 March, one here on 25th; one over Mynydd Margam on 4 Dec.; one over Neath on 31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on dates throughout the year, and two in Sept.; one in the Dinefwr Ponds/Dryslwyn area from 2015 to 19 March; one at Cilsan Bridge on 4 Aug.; two at Dryslwyn on 10 Aug., with one remaining in the Dinefwr Ponds/Dryslwyn area into 2017; one at Llangennech on 3 Feb.; one at Llanybri on 18 Sept.; one at St. Clears on 25 Nov.; PEMBROKE: one over Skomer on 14 Sept.; two at Radford Farm, Milton, on 31 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one on the Teifi from 16-25 July; one on the Teifi Marshes on 24 Nov.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD/MONTGOMERY: one at various sites in the Dyfi estuary between 25 Oct. and 31 Dec.; BRECON: up to three at Llangorse from 2015 to 17 March, one here on 28 Sept., joined by a second from 25 Oct. and increasing to four together from 24 Nov. into 2017; MEIRIONNYDD: one on the Mawddach estuary on 4-6 Nov., roosting with Little Egrets at the Pill, Dolgellau, on 4th; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy on 10

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	240	392
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	54	170

July was the precursor to the presence of six birds in the Conwy estuary during Sept./Oct., the last sighting on 4 Nov.; ANGLESEY: one at RSPB Valley Wetlands from 6-9 June; one at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 28 Aug. to 5 Sept.; three over the Alaw estuary and two over Holyhead (possibly the same) on 14 Sept.; one over Carmel Head on 24 Sept.; one on the Braint estuary on 9 Oct.; one on the Inland Sea on 2-15 Oct. and two here on 11th; one (possibly the same) off Penrhos CP on 20 Oct. and on the Inland Sea on 12 Nov.; DENBIGH: one at Pensarn beach on 3 Nov.; FLINT: single birds on numerous dates in the Dee estuary throughout the year, but number of birds involved is unknown; one at Rhyll's Brickwork Pool on 19 Nov.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

CREYR GLAS

(C) Resident breeding species occurring widely around estuaries, lakes and inland watercourses; although the population is increasing in some counties, overall in Wales, it appears to be declining. Wales Amber listed.

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a 10% decline since 1995. Bird reports reported an estimated 250 nests in 40 heronries: GWENT: 47 occupied nests at eight sites including a new heronry at Magor Marsh; felling of woodland at Tredegar House, which previously held the heronry, saw a reduction from four breeding pairs here in 2015 to a single pair; E.GLAMORGAN: 48 occupied nests at six sites, including a single nest at Llanishen Res. (new) and probably bred at Cosmeston Lakes CP; GOWER: 23-24 occupied nests at seven sites (two sites used in 2015 were not occupied); PEMBROKE: bred at five sites, with an attempt at a sixth and possibly also around Newport; BRECON: 45 occupied nests at three sites, including a ‘new’ heronry at Ffordd Fawr that may be a colony relocating from Wern Iago Wood, Glasbury. MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Aberdyfi; daily sightings in the Pont Croesor and Ynysfor areas suggest that there must be a heronry nearby; CAERNARFON: 47 occupied nests at seven sites, the largest being 11 nests at Abercegin; ANGLESEY: four juveniles at Bodorgan on 10 June; DENBIGH: 17 occupied nests at three sites.

Outside the breeding season, some observers have commented on a decline in wintering numbers, although the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has returned to its level of ten years ago following a dip at the start of the current decade.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	4236	4447
% of BirdTrack lists	24	22
No of 1km squares	850	828

Monthly counts from selected sites (holding 10+ birds at least once):

Other records of 10+ away from breeding colonies, or other interesting records: E.GLAMORGAN: 16 circling over Forest Farm on 6 Jan.; 11 at Grangemoor Park on 2 Nov.; a distinctive melanistic juvenile was at Llwyn-onn Res. on 14 June; GOWER: 14 on pasture at Old Park Farm, Margam, on 19 Feb.; BRECON: 10-11 adults and juveniles at Ffordd Fawr in Sept. and Oct.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Min-y-Don on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: double-figure counts from RSPB Conwy throughout the year (max. count 42 on 6 Oct.); FLINT: 14 at Connah’s Quay NR on 9 Oct.; 12 at Rhuddlan on 5 Feb.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

CREYR PORFFOR

(A) Rare visitor, on WRP list. 65 previous records.

ANGLESEY: two, possibly three, at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 28 July to Sept., possibly to 1 Oct. They were immature birds and were often seen perching in trees and chasing each other over the reserve. There were reports from Beaumaris on 11 June and Cors Bodeilio on 12 June, but these were not submitted to the Welsh Records Panel.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia***CICONIA GWYN**

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	10	7	5	12	5		4	7	6	4	3	5
Nedern Wetland	9	5	1	1	2	14					5	4
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	13	10	12			21	29		20	12	6	7
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake		19	13									
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	26	10	11	1	2	3	2	10	31	12	21	23

(A) *Unusual visitor, some records may be escaped individuals. On WRP list. 37 records since 1991.*

PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one on the Teifi Marshes and estuary on 10-12 April; MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD: one over the Dyfi estuary on 13 April was the first record for Montgomery since 1993 and for Meirionnydd since 1998.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus***CRYMANBIG DDU**

(A) *Rare visitor, on WRP list. 110 previous records*

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve from 18 Feb. to 28 April; CARMARTHEN: one at Ferryside Rugby Club from 3-12 Jan., presumed same at Carmarthen Bay caravan site from 16 Jan. to 19 Feb.; one at Penclacwydd on 11-20 Jan.; PEMBROKE: one at Pembroke Castle Millpond on 18-20 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one at Cors Caron on 6-7 Aug.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia***LLWYBIG**

(A) *An uncommon visitor to Wales, recorded mainly from estuaries and coastal lagoons and occasionally over-wintering and summering. Wales Amber listed.*

GWENT: several records during the year but difficult to deduce exactly how many birds were involved: one over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 18 May; two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff Lagoons) on 21 May; two over the M48 at Chepstow on 18 June; one at Goldcliff Lagoons from 12-17 July; one over Pontypool on 12 Aug.; GOWER: two at Penclawdd lower saltmarsh, then Loughor Bridge on 20 May and south of Loughor on 26 May; CARMARTHEN: single birds at Penclacwydd on 21 June, 28 July, 2-24 Aug. and 4-15 Sept.; one at Ginst Point on 31 July; one at Pembrey Burrows on 20-21 Aug.; PEMBROKE: one over Newport on 6 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: two immatures on the Broadwater on 19-22 May; DENBIGH: one on two dates at RSPB Conwy at the end of May, possibly the same bird reported at Llyn Aled on 2 June; another at RSPB Conwy on 14 Sept.; FLINT: two at Rhuddlan on 27 May (the same as Denbighshire above?) and one downstream near Rhyl on the same day; immature at Shotwick Boating Lake on 16 May; one at Shotton on 5 Aug.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis***GWYACH FACH**

(C) *Rather uncommon breeding resident on well vegetated lakes, marshes and water courses; scarcer*

in the land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

Breeding: GWENT: 16 pairs bred successfully at five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: nine broods at the evolving

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	30	91
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	9	22

habitat in Llanishen/Lisvane Res.; eight broods at a further four sites and probably bred at a fifth; GOWER: bred at four sites and probably at a fifth; CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: recorded from at least 45 1km squares but only one confirmed breeding record;

CEREDIGION: single broods at five sites; BRECON: five broods at three sites, and possibly at a further two; MEIRIONNYDD: single pairs at two sites but no broods seen; CAERNARFON: 2-3 pairs at two sites, with possible breeding at a further two locations; ANGLESEY: three broods at two sites, probably at another two with possible nesting on a further four lakes; DENBIGH: two pairs bred successfully at Llanddulas Quarry; young seen at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, probably bred here; FLINT: at least six broods at five sites.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2245	2529
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%
No of 1km squares	309	325

Monthly maximum counts from sites holding 10 or more at least once:

Other counts of 10 or more birds: GWENT: 12 (plus recently-fledged juveniles) at Ynysfro Res. on 18 Sept.; 11 at Tredegar Park on 13 Feb., 15 here on 18 Dec.; GOWER: record count of 31 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 25 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 11 at Ashpits Pond on 11 Nov.; 16 at Cefn Padrig on 3 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Nanteos Pool in March; ANGLESEY: 15 at Malltraeth on 6 Jan.; DENBIGH: 15 at RSPB Conwy on 20 Dec.; FLINT: 62 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 18 Sept.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

(C) Resident species, breeding on shallow, vegetated lakes. Shows a more coastal distribution in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

Breeding: GWENT: single pairs bred successfully at two sites, attempts at a further five; E.GLAMORGAN: single pairs bred successfully at six sites, nest seen at another site but outcome unknown; GOWER: four pairs at Eglwys Nunydd Res. with evidence of double-brooding; PEMBROKE: confirmed breeding at Rosebush Res. with three young reared, the first successful attempt for many years; CEREDIGION: single pairs bred at two sites; BRECON: two of four nests were successful at three reservoir sites, while five pairs displayed at two other locations but no breeding proven; MEIRIONNYDD: two nesting attempts on Llyn Trawsfynydd failed; territorial pair on Llyn Arenig Fawr but outcome unknown; CAERNARFON: pairs present on four Snowdonia lakes but no nesting reported; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at RSPB

Valley Wetlands; several pairs bred successfully at Llyn Cefni; DENBIGH: single pairs bred successfully

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	48	42	39	4	2	2	2	15	18	29	6	49
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	25	25	30	30	20	5	14	2	31	30	31	26
Parc Taf Bargoed	19	21	12	1		5	9		15	18	23	25
Abercwmboi Lakes	1	10	8								4	2
Ogmore est.	8	6	6					1	1	3	9	11
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3	3	6	5	4	4	8	6	3	7	11	4
Station, Burry Port								13	15	15	8	
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	10		1							1	6	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	16	7	3				3		1	13	21	15
Pembroke Millpond	17	15	9						32	19	39	27
BRECON												
Talybont Res.	31	15	16				7	18	19	10	18	31
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	11	3	4						14	9	4	5
Tal y llyn	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	12	24	11
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5	5	3				1	2	4	25	6	6

at three sites, with two displaying pairs at Gresford Flash but nesting not recorded; FLINT: bred successfully at Padeswood; displaying pair at Fagl Lane Pits.

Non-breeding: three poor years in the last four has caused a marked drop in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, following a sustained increase for 25 years to 2010.

Monthly maximum counts from sites holding 20 or more at least once:

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve

Other peak counts of 20 or more birds: E.GLAMORGAN: 20 off Ogmore-by Sea on 6 Dec.; GOWER: 37 in Port Talbot Harbour on 17 Jan.; 24 in Oxwich Bay on 13 March; 24 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 18 March; 20 at Whiteford Point on 20 Oct.; 69 off Margam Sands on 13 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Llys y fran Res. on 24 June; CEREDIGION: 47 at Borth/Ynyslas on 30 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 23 in Beddmanarch Bay on 18 Jan.; 26 off Red Wharf Bay on 19 Jan.; 23 in Holyhead Bay on 8 Feb.; DENBIGH: max. count of 40 at Llanddulas on 15 March.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1828	2271
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	11%
No of 1km squares	310	332

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

GWYACH YDDFGOCH

(A) Rare winter visitor, on WRP list from 1 January 2017. Wales Amber listed.

All records involved single birds: GWENT: summer-plumage bird at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff

Lagoons) on 11 Feb., then on Uskmouth section on 18 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: Porthcawl seafront on 3 Jan., the first in the recording area since 2006; PEMBROKE: Westfield Pill on 3-12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: in Porthmadoc/Borth y Gest/Glaslyn area from 29 Jan. to 1 Mar.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG

(B) A scarce and local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay*	20	39	29	43	47	47	66	57	34	25	9	25
Cardiff Bay Wetland		20	20	30	39			33	25		8	4
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	6	12	11	11	26	13	18	80	33	9	23	4
GOWER												
Blackpill	143	1	8	4	7	1	1	8	8	22	61	160
Baglan Bay	261										172	75
Burry Inlet	5	5	13	8	8	1	7	8	13	4	20	6
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	8	11	6	5	11	3	4	1	1	43	28	8
Pwll/Burry Port	1	9		9				10		26	5	20
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	27	18	18	12	14	0	0	0	3	6	11	10
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	2	22	84						1	5	1	4
Traeth Lafan	10	60+	261	9	2	5+	7	60+	55	c.85	76	65
ANGLESEY												
Benllech	110	65									130	

inland. Wales Red listed.

Main sites that regularly hold Slavonian Grebes:

Other records: GWENT: one on Llandegfedd Res. on 10 Jan.; GOWER: up to six in Burry Inlet from 1 Jan. to 26 Mar. (max. count at Llanrhidian on 9 Mar.), then singles at Whiteford on 19 Sept., 20 and 28 Dec.; one at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 22 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: two at Morfa Bacas on 11 Apr.; singles at Penclacwydd on 13 Apr. and 4 Nov.; one at Burry Port on 17 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one at Llys y Fran Res. on 30 Jan.; one at Coppet Hall on 24 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one at Teifi Marshes on 11-25 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15 Jan.,

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	13	33
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	7	10

11 and 25 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: one on the Glaslyn/Dwyrdd on 17 Jan.; one off Harlech on 19 Jan.; two on the R.Dysynni on 24 Oct.; four off Morfa Harlech on 20 Nov.;

MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: singles off Borth y Gest and in the Dwyrdd estuary (assumed to be different birds) on 30 Jan.; six off Borth-y-gest on 3-6 Feb, with one here on 18 Feb.; CAERNARFON: two off Criccieth on 16 Jan.; singles at Foryd in Jan. and April; ANGLESEY: small numbers in Beddmanarch Bay from 1 Jan. to 21 Mar. (max. four on 1 Jan.) and again from 11 Nov. to year end (max. two birds); two in the Alaw estuary on 2 Jan.; singles on the Inland Sea on 4 Mar. and 10 Apr.; DENBIGH: one off Rhos-on-Sea on 14 Nov. and off Colwyn Bay on 19 Dec.; FLINT: one at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20-21 Feb.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	93	152	BLACK-NECKED GREBE <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> GWY-ACH YDDFDDU <i>(A) Rare winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred</i>
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	43	58	

on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point		2	1								1	
Traeth Lafan	1	3	2									2

GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 27 Aug.; GOWER: one at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 13 Sept., two here on 25th; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 4 and 14 May; three at Cefn Padrig on 12-14 Nov., one remaining to 26th; one at Salmon Point Scar on 20 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: three on the Glaslyn/Dwyrdd on 17 Jan.; one on the Dwyrdd on 30 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: three off Borth-y-gest on 16 Jan., with 1-2 birds here until 12 Feb.; ANGLESEY: one on the Inland Sea from 4 Dec. until the year end.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **BOD Y MEL**
(B) First confirmed breeding in 1992, now breeds in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

Breeding: GOWER: one pair raised two young. The male was colour-ringed as a chick and is 9-10 years old.

Other records: E.GLAMORGAN: male over Mawdlam on 18 June; PEMBROKE: one reported to Birdguides off Strumble Head on 30 May; MEIRIONNYDD: one photographed in the Cadair Idris area on 31 May.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* **BARCUD DU**
(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 18 previous records.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	54	24	The only accepted Welsh record was one flying over Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and The Range, ANGLESEY, on 10 May.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	12	10	

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* **BARCUD COCH**
(C) Formerly widespread, but almost eradicated between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Now

an increasing resident breeder in Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5	2
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	4	2

Breeding: GWENT: 14 confirmed nests (probably an underestimate); E.GLAMORGAN: one pair bred; GOWER: one pair bred; CARMARTHEN: widespread, but no nests recorded; PEMBROKE: recorded from 66 1km squares but no data received on the number of nesting pairs; BRECON:

at least nine breeding pairs located; population reported as increasing in CEREDIGION, MEIRIONNYDD and CAERNARFON but no nest counts undertaken; sightings increased in ANGLESEY but no breeding suspected; DENBIGH: one pair fledged two young.

Large counts included: GOWER: 15 over Mynydd Marchywel on 23 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 35 at Cross Inn feeding station, Llanddeusant, on 2 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 26 at Llangurig on 26 Oct.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

BOD Y GWERNI

(B) Rare breeding bird, perhaps at several locations; occasionally overwinters.

A notable increase in records to BirdTrack in 2016, reflecting the presence of three territorial pairs and an increasing number of passage and overwintering birds.

Breeding: GWENT: pair may have bred at Newport Wetlands; BRECON: a pair on territory on

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1688	1629
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%
No of 1km squares	971	851

Sennybridge Ranges, may have bred; ANGLESEY: a male and two females bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga, fledging four young from two nests.

Other records of note: PEMBROKE: up to three wintered at Castlemartin Corse, with two birds summering here until mid-Oct.; ANGLESEY:

juveniles remained at RSPB Cors Ddyga for most of the autumn, with two until the end of the year, presumably the same birds seen at Llyn Llywenan in October and December.

Breakdown of other records for each vice-county (for some, specific sites are also included), separated by sex where given (M = male, Imm. Male = immature male, CC = cream-crown, female/imm.):

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

BOD TINWEN

(C) Small numbers breed on the uplands of north and mid-Wales, otherwise a winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	157	212
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	50	58

A breeding survey of the UK and the Isle of Man was undertaken in 2016. The hen harrier population had been slowly recovering in Wales since re-colonising in the late 1950s but the latest figures show that the number of pairs has fallen by more than a third over the past six years, from 57

pairs to 35. This is the lowest population in Wales since the 1998 census. The full survey results are due to be published in 2018.

Breeding information submitted to vice-county recorders: BRECON: one pair fledged two chicks, with individuals recorded at four other sites; MONTGOMERY: two nests at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy failed; MEIRIONNYDD: nine pairs attempted to breed, a minimum of 30 eggs were laid but no young fledged; CAERNARFON: three pairs in the Carneddau may have bred; birds recorded in two areas of Migneint during the breeding season.

Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Breakdown of other records for each vice-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2+	3+	3+	2+	2
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig NNR					1			1		1		
GOWER												
Llanrhidian			1		1	1	1	2	1	1	1	
Staffal Haegr					1	1	1	3	1	1		
CARMARTHEN								3	3+			
PEMBROKE				1								
Marloes/Skomer/ Skokholm					3	1		1		2		
CEREDIGION				1				1				
CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi est.	M			1				1	1+	2CC	CC	M
BRECON					1				1	1		
MONTGOMERY				1	1			1				
MEIRIONNYDD								CC	CC	CC		
CAERNARFON								2CC	CC	CC		
Bardsey				M			CC	CC		CC		
ANGLESEY				1	2			2				1
DENBIGH						1						
FLINT	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	3		1+	1+

county (for some, specific sites are also included), separated by sex where given (M = male, J = juv., RT = ring-tail):

	2015	2016	GOSHAWK <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	GWALCH MARTH
No of BirdTrack records	259	298	(C) Breeding resident in all Welsh counties, but little is known about their true status.	
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%		
No of 1km squares	124	137		

Breeding: GWENT: seven nests in the western Valleys, with reports from several additional sites here. Three of five nests monitored produced two chicks each, while the other two each produced three chicks. In the east and south-east, 19 nests were monitored, of which six failed, the overall productivity was 1.74 fledged young per nest. Elsewhere two nests were known to be successful. Records were also received from other areas where breeding is

likely, including the Black Mountains and Usk Valley; E.GLAMORGAN: one confirmed breeding record; one found dead at Ty'n-y-Coed, Pentrych, was suspected to have been shot; GOWER: recorded at three suitable sites in breeding season; CARMARTHEN: one confirmed breeding attempt and two other records of display; PEMBROKE: at four sites during the breeding season; CEREDIGION: breeding suspected at five sites; BRECON: reported from 25 locations, with begging calls of females and juveniles and/or adults carrying food noted at many; CAERNARFON: four sites during the breeding season; ANGLESEY: two sites during the breeding season, with display noted at one.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				4RT	M RT	RT	RT	RT	2RT	M	M RT	RT
Newport Wetlands	RT	RT							RT	RT	RT	RT
E.GLAMORGAN			1						1	4	M	M
GOWER	1									M	3M	M RT
Llanrhidian/ Staffal Haegr	M RT	P	P							1	4	
CARMARTHEN			1					1		5+	5+	
Penclacwydd	2	1	1	1						1	1	
PEMBROKE	1			1								
Dowrog/St David's		RT							RT	M		
Plumstone Mt			RT							M RT		
Skomer		RT	RT	RT			1	2+	3			
Skokholm			RT	RT				RT	RT			
CEREDIGION		M	2	1						1	2	1
Dyfi est.	M RT	M RT	M RT							M 3RT	M 3RT	M 3RT
Cors Caron	M RT	M RT	M RT							M RT	M RT	M RT
BRECON	M		3M RT				M		M 2RT	RT	M 2RT	M RT
MEIRIONNYDD	3	1		5	1	1		1	2	1	1	2
CAERNARFON	1	2	1	1			1		1	1	1	
Bardsey					1					1		
ANGLESEY			1		1			1		1		
RSPB Cors Ddyga										1	1	2
DENBIGH	M			4M RT	4M RT	M		RT				
FLINT		M RT	RT	RT						RT	RT	RT

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

GWALCH GLAS

(D) Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales, some evidence that it is declining where Goshawks are abundant.

Recorded on a smaller proportion of BirdTrack lists than in 2015. And some people would tell you that they are “everywhere” ...

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	158	143
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	125	100

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

BWNCATH

(C) Common and widespread breeding resident throughout all of Wales.

It is interesting to note a slight reduction in the proportion of BirdTrack lists that include Buzzard, and a 15% reduction in the number of 1km squares from which records were made. The Breeding Bird Survey index is now 2% lower than in 1995 and 13% below the high point in 2002.

Largest counts included: GWENT: 30+ at Llanarth on 28 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 18 at Merthyr Mawr Warren on 26 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 15 at Cross Inn feeding station, Llanddeusant, on 2 Feb.; BRECON: 16 at Pontywal Lane, Bronllys, on 2 Oct. and 23 nearby on 20 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: c.30 soaring over Dolydd Hafren on 30 May; MEIRIONNYDD: 16 at Waen yr Hydd, Llandrillo, on 12 April; CAERNARFON: 17 at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 20 March.

A ringed adult Buzzard HT11384 now has the honour of being the longest-lived Buzzard in Britain. The bird was 30 years, 5 months and 21 days old when it was found sick in Blaenau Ffestiniog, MEIRIONNYDD, on 27 December, 10 km east of Trawsfynydd where it was ringed as a nestling on 6 July 1986. It was released from care in January 2017.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1673	1335
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	6%
No of 1km squares	620	546

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

(B) A small breeding population has become established since 2004. Elsewhere, an annual spring and autumn passage migrant.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5647	5470
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	25%
No of 1km squares	1960	1661

Five breeding attempts: MONTGOMERY: two pairs bred, one at Cors Dyfi (one young fledged), one in the south of the vice-county (three young fledged); MEIRIONNYDD: two nests, one at Pont Croesor on the Glaslyn fledged two young, the other elsewhere in the vice-county; CAERNARFON: one

pair attempted to breed but failed at the egg stage.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each vice-county:

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	204	188
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	99	96

*one bird spent the late summer (26 Aug. to 5 Oct.) at a number of sites in north Gower.

A satellite tracked female passed over Bardsey, CAERNARFON, on 8 May on her way from Portugal to Scotland, where she spent the summer building a nest in Caithness. The satellite track showed her passing over Swansea, GOWER, on the morning of the 8th, then going over PEMBROKE before heading out over Cardigan Bay.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT		5			3	2	2	1
E.GLAMORGAN		3				2		
GOWER		1	1		1	1*	2+1*	1*
CARMARTHEN						1	1	
PEMBROKE		2	1			2	3	
CEREDIGION		3	1			1		
BRECON	2	1	2+	2		2		
RADNOR	2	2	2			1	1	
MONTGOMERY	1							1
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1		1		1		
CAERNARFON		2	2	1				
Bardsey			4			1		1
ANGLESEY	1	2	2		1	1		
DENBIGH	1	1	1	1		1	1	
FLINT		1	1				1	

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

(C) A scarce breeding resident, more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Green listed.

Breeding or probable breeding records: GWENT: breeding survey at Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth) recorded three breeding pairs, compared to six pairs in 2015; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding reports, but April-May records at six sites; GOWER: probably bred at three sites; CARMARTHEN: two calling at Ffrwd Fen; CEREDIGION: brood of two chicks at Cors Caron; breeding season records at Cors Fochno and RSPB Ynys-hir where three pairs held territory in late April; BRECON: probably bred at two locations at Llangasty; MEIRIONNYDD: at least 1-2 pairs probably bred at Yr Ynys, Mawddach; ANGLESEY: probably bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands, Cors Goch and Cors Bodeilio; FLINT: six records with breeding codes, including confirmed breeding at Gronant dunes.



Water Rail (Annie Haycock)

Maximum autumn and winter concentrations (5+ at least once):

Other counts of 5+: E.GLAMORGAN: six at Cardiff Bay Wetlands and Tirfounder Fields on 11 March; six at Tirfounder Fields on 21 and 31 Oct.; GOWER: five at Oxwich Marsh on 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE: six at Teifi Marshes on 10 Jan.; up to nine on Skomer in Sept.-Nov., with max. 11 on 18 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: six at Dolydd Hafren on 18 Dec.; ANGLESEY: six at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 4 Jan. and 15 here on 30 Oct.; six at Cors Erddreiniog on 20 Nov.; FLINT: up to five present at Gronant dunes.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	745	643
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%
No of 1km squares	129	139

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **RHEGEN**

FRAITH

(A) *Rare vagrant and occasional breeder. On WRP list. 40+ records since 1991. Wales Green listed.*

GWENT: one first spotted during a WeBS count at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Oct. was the first recorded in the vice-county for 22 years.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	2	1	2	1	1		1	1	1	6	9	9
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	3	4	1	4	1		3	0	3	3	7	6
BRECON	Llangorse - Llangasty	5+										6	7
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	2	1	1					1	3	6	5	2
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	20		1+				1+				4	2

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus***IAR DDWR***(C) A widespread and locally common breeding resident and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

Breeding records included: GWENT: three pairs bred successfully near Osbaston, 1-2 pairs bred at nine sites; 16 pairs with 39 juveniles were on the 14 Locks to Pontywaun section of the Monmouth-Brecon Canal and 17 pairs with 37 young on the Cwmbran retail park to Pontymoile section; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed at 17 sites; GOWER: 25 broods at 21 sites; CARMARTHEN: four pairs bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: recorded in 51 1km squares, with breeding evidence from 11 of these; CEREDIGION: 10 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, with breeding records also from Llanerchaeron and Maesllyn pool; BRECON: eight nests/broods at nine sites, including one nest four metres up a tree at Brechfa Pool; MEIRIONNYDD: brood of three at Ynys pool; CAERNARFON: 12 breeding pairs and 17 young fledged on Bardsey; breeding recorded at five other sites; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at seven sites; DENBIGH: nine nests/broods at six locations; FLINT: confirmed breeding at twelve locations.

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 40+ at least once:

	2015	2016	COOT <i>Fulica atra</i> <i>(C) A locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales but declining in many areas. Wales Amber listed.</i>	CWTIAR
No of BirdTrack records	4124	4378		
% of BirdTrack lists	25%	23%		
No of 1km squares	495	534		

Breeding: GWENT: 23 nests at three sites, plus 1-2 pairs at a further six; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 20 sites; GOWER: 20 nests at 10 sites; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: recorded in 13 1km squares, but breeding evidence from only two of these; CEREDIGION: single nests at three locations; BRECON: a poor breeding season at all sites: chicks were predated at Llangorse Lake and Brechfa Pool, and pairs failed at Tŷ Mawr Pool and Garth Lake; MEIRIONNYDD: present at Morfa Harlech in the breeding season; CAERNARFON: two pairs bred at Parc Menai, but possibly only one young fledged; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at six sites, and probably bred at a seventh but no longer breeds at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: confirmed breeding at eight locations; FLINT: confirmed breeding at 12 locations.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached its lowest point in 2015/16 since it

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Monmouth-Brecon Canal	83	61	170	104	14		7		120	43	51	105
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay inc CBWR	17	40	50	26	12	11	18	32	23	27	3	35
Cors Crychdydd Reen	5	7	11	1	7		4			45		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	48	66	27	10	19	27	37	6	32	57	74	62
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	9	13	24	Nc	nc	8	10	46	54	37	20	13

was created in the mid 1980s.

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (100+ at least once):

Other counts of 100+: ANGLESEY: c.400 at Llyn Llywenan on 7 Sept.; 150 at Llyn Maeilog on 11 Nov.; 226 at Llyn Cefni on 17 Oct.; c.310 at Llyn Cefni on 4 Dec.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	3273	3651	COMMON CRANE <i>Grus grus</i> GARAN
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	19%	(A) <i>Rare visitor, on WRP list, 36 previous records.</i>
No of 1km squares	333	339	

One of the biggest bird news stories of the year was that Common Crane bred successfully in GWENT on the Gwent Levels, fledging a single chick; this was the first breeding record in Wales for around 400 years. The area of the Gwent Levels where they bred is under threat from the proposed M4 relief road. The birds were frequently sighted at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) during the early part of the year and again post-breeding, when the adults, “Lofty” and “Gibble”, were accompanied by the chick, “Garan”. The adults originated from the Great Crane Project in Somerset.

Other records: E.GLAMORGAN: a second colour-ringed pair from the Great Crane Project in Somerset was present at an undisclosed site from at least 26 June to 2 July, and may have summered at the same site in 2015. Two over Kenfig NNR on 5 May were probably this pair; CARMARTHEN: an adult at Clochrye Farm, Felinfoel, on 2-10 March was the fourth vice-county record.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Ynysfro Res.	52	56	37	18	30	20	39	93	106	88	106	107
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay excl CBWR	194	114	84	43	67	72	287	280	296	358	117	415
Cardiff Bay Wetlands	p	20	30	20	30			140	140	14		33
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	160	142	89	53	49	75	154	173	139	127	117	74
Roath Park Lake	120	64	58	36	36		137	186	262	244	229	274
Kenfig Pool	100	58	46	27	25	8	6	12	14	26	93	109
R. Ely, Penarth			4	4				100	36		20	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	337	357	152	11	12	10		43	11	212	362	424
FLINT												
Rhyl brickworks									117	140	124	

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* **RHEDWR Y MOELYDD**
(A) *Very rare vagrant, on WRP list. 44 previous records.*

The only record was one at Gronant, FLINT, on 12 June, found by wardens monitoring the nearby Little Tern colony.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **CAMBIG**
(A) *Breeds in Gwent and increasing in eastern Flint, elsewhere still a scarce visitor. Wales Amber listed.*

Breeding: GWENT: at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), the first birds of the year were two on 21 Jan., then in Feb. a max of 42, 110 in Mar. and 108 in Apr. Of 43 pairs that bred, ten young fledged. Two nests and three fledged young were also reported at Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth) on 5 June. Post-breeding birds were recorded in all months, including one very late individual on 26 Dec.

Other records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Aberthaw saltmarsh on 22 March; CARMARTHEN: one at Llansteffan from 11 Jan. to 22 Feb.; one at Penclacwydd on 7-8 May; CEREDIGION: one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15 Mar.; BRECON: one at Llangasty on 21 Mar. was the first vice-county record, preceding three here on 16 Apr.; RADNOR: one at Llowes on 19 Mar.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 13-16 Mar.; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 26 Apr.; FLINT: one at Flint on 20 Mar., then 1-2 during Apr.-May, five at Connah's Quay NR on 29 June and seven here on 15 Sept. Breeding occurred just over the border, on the English part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

(C) A common, chiefly coastal, breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding: GWENT: nests at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff and Uskmouth) and at St. Brides Wentlooge; probably bred at two other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: nest at Roath Basin/Mermaid Quay area of Cardiff Bay but outcome not known; GOWER: probably bred at Brunel Dock; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at nine mainland locations. 66 breeding pairs on Skomer and 54 on Skokholm; CEREDIGION: bred at three sites but presumably other scattered pairs along the coast; BRECON: pair at Llangorse raised at least two chicks. No confirmed breeding in the Usk or Wye valleys, but suspected at the latter; MONTGOMERY: three pairs at Dolydd Hafren; one pair near Caersws; MEIRIONNYDD: six territorial pairs; CAERNARFON: 82 pairs on Bardsey, 8% below the 2007-2016 mean. Productivity was relatively high at 0.46, very similar to the 2007-2016 mean. Of 56 nests monitored, the mean clutch size was 2.14; three pairs at two mainland sites and possible breeding at another three; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at RSPB Valley Wetlands; six pairs at Cemlyn all failed to raise any young; probably bred at three other sites; DENBIGH: bred in the Kinmel Bay area; FLINT: bred at four locations.
No of BirdTrack records	136	212	
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%	
No of 1km squares	15	24	

Sizeable flocks of this species occur all round the Welsh coast and the monthly max. for the main sites (holding counts of 1000 at least once) are tabulated as known.

	2015	2016	GREY PLOVER <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	CWTIAD LLWYD
No of BirdTrack records	4039	4885	<i>(C) A widespread and common winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Wales Red listed.</i>	
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	25%		
No of 1km squares	686	708		

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached its lowest point in 2015/16 since it was created in the mid 1970s. Numbers declined significantly in the 1990s and continue to fall. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 40 at least once) are tabulated as available.

Other counts (40+): E.GLAMORGAN: 167 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 17 Nov.; CEREDIGION: an exceptional count of 130 on the Dyfi on 18 Oct. with 60 still present in Dec.; FLINT: 50 at Mostyn on 16 Feb. and at RSPB Point of Ayr on 21 Feb.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Blackpill	1400	1094	536	354	251	282	408	716	1206	1035	1765	1408
Whiteford	1042	2000	629	756	1136	1720	568	4800	4010	4600	4400	2900
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	5500	4100	1250	2		3	180	1707	3136	1400	2750	1650
Penclawdd/Crofty	2800	1750	900	450		500	660	2200	4100	3020	2160	600
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1600	2725	434	771	4		109			50		100
Burry Port/Pembrey				530	1900			3000	3000		3500	
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	390		4358						5300		105	1903
Gwendraeth est.	3394	4868	5142								8800	5908
Taf est.	1268	68	178	1				3	39	37	1223	1307
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd est.	997	600	25						0	1000	583	980
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2631	3850	2041		c1600	c700	510	3592	4793	4663	2080	4005
FLINT												
Gronant	345	79	174	452	157	142	85	502		87	431	2300
RSPB Point of Ayr	3000	6	350	200	800	300	1000	3500	4000	6000	5000	4000

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

(C) A scarce and declining breeding species, found chiefly on the upland plateaux of Denbigh, Radnor, Ceredigion and Brecon. Wales Red listed.

Breeding: BRECON: seven territories on the Black Mountains included a nest of four eggs and at least one juvenile seen in another territory. Elsewhere, 1-3 breeding territories in the eastern Beacons, a small chick being killed and half-eaten by a loose dog on one of these in late-May. A pair failed at egg stage on Abergwesyn Common; MEIRIONNYDD: potential breeders were nine at Moel Sych, Berwyn, on 20 Apr.; singles at Cadair Bronwen on 15 Aug., Milltir Gerrig on 29 Aug. and Palé on 30 Aug. may have been local dispersing breeding birds.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey rarely records Golden Plovers on farmland, the index for Wales shows an upward trend, having been cyclical for the last three decade. Records here (see next page) are rather incomplete but monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Mathern	24	17			1			1	1		91	12
Undy foreshore	21	13		1	16			1	14	131	49	42
Peterstone Wentlooge	16	120	4	1	3			20	6	5	11	12
GOWER												
Whiteford	150	76	3							18	57	58
Weobley	180	47	25						210	260	140	
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	28	55	30							260	20	22
Penclawdd/Crofty	5	64		14					8	12	17	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2	51	4	4	19		1			1	25	3
ANGLESEY												
Alaw est.	85								8		26	

Other large winter flocks (400+) in coastal counties: CARMARTHEN: c.1000 at Three Lords, Pendine, on 3 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Carew-Cresswell in Jan., and 1500 here in Dec.; 2000 at Daugleddau in Jan. and Dec.; 1600 on E. Cleddau; 1150 at Hook in Feb.; 700 at Castlemartin Corse on 20 Jan. and 750 here on 31 Mar.; 800 at Caervega Farm on 20 Oct.; 600 at Trefigan on 20 Oct.; 700 at Brawdy on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 500 at Capel Cynon on 30 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 536 at Tywyn on 19 March; 1000 on Penllyn fields on 1 Apr.; ANGLESEY: c.800 at Malltraeth on 6 Jan.; 3000 on the Cefni estuary on 19 Jan.; 600 at Tŷ Croes on 16 Jan.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	315	290
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	155	135

Inland sites holding 70+ birds (both in BRECON) at least once:



*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN								
Skera area	250	540	550	400+	30	300	383	500+
GOWER								
North Gower saltings	2550	3130	130			c820	c1000	c1100
CARMARTHEN								
Gwendraeth est.	3000	2500	3000			750	1500	2000
Tywi est.	400							
Taf est.	2400		500				1013	800
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau est.	3890	3630	800			300	570	5000
CEREDIGION								
Dyfi est.	1389	1260					1430	
Aberaeron		200	400					300
MEIRIONNYDD								
Broadwater	85	110	0			363	400	1500
CAERNARFON								
Morfa Dinlle/Foryd	50	c400	1000+			200+	100	200

‘Llandefalle Hill’ includes Llangoed Common, Mynydd Fforest and Nantyarlan.

Other large (70+):	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec	inland counts
Llandefalle Hill*		257	270	59			150	
Mynydd Illtud	153	85	71	55	253	106	50	

CARMARTHEN: 87 at Garreg Lwyd on 30 March; BRECON: 85 on Cefn Llwydallt on 24 Oct.; CAERNARFON: c.70 flew over Carnedd Dafydd on 21 Oct.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

CORGWTIAD AUR

(A) Rare American vagrant, on WRP list. 13 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one at Angle Bay on 29 Apr.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

(A) An occasional breeder, uncommon migrant in spring and autumn. Wales Amber listed.

Spring records: CARMARTHEN: one at Garreg Lwyd on 24 Apr.; one at Tair Carn Isaf on 30 Apr.; PEMBROKE: 12 at Marloes Mere, and presumably the same birds on Skomer, on 6 May; BRECON: four on Drum-yr-Eira near Drygarn Fawr on 4 May; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, two on Bera Bach on 4 May and three on Yr Aryg on 7 May; in the Glyderau, 9-10 near the summit of Glyder Fawr on 4 May was an unusual record; one on the Great Orme on 13-14 May; ANGLESEY: six reported on The Range on 13 May.

Return passage: E.GLAMORGAN: juvenile at Nash Point on 11 Oct. was only the fourth autumn record in the vice-county; CEREDIGION: four near the summit of Pumlumon on 24 Aug.; ANGLESEY: one on the Range on 15 Sept.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

(C) A summer visitor, breeding in small numbers on the gravel shoals of rivers in south and east Wales and on industrial sites in northeast Wales. Elsewhere it is an uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

GWENT: at least three pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), fledging several young; one pair

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	193	161
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	57	46

fledged young at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); breeding proven at one other site and suspected at another; away from the coast, single juvenile at Llandegfedd Res. on 17 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: four pairs at Llanilid produced seven chicks; two territories suspected at Rhaslas

Pond, and one brood seen; GOWER: probably bred at Castell Du, where brood seen on 17 July; CARMARTHEN: pair nested at Cross Hands, but eggs were predated by gulls; no counts made of the breeding population along the Tywi; BRECON: three pairs nested at Blaen Dyffryn Quarry but outcome unknown; pair at Talybont Res. bred successfully; MONTGOMERY: family party on the gravel beds at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 26 June probably bred nearby; DENBIGH: probably bred at two locations; FLINT: probably bred at one location.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	23 March	NWR (Goldcliff)	18 Sept.	Not stated
E.GLAMORGAN	27 March	Kenfig Pool	July	Rhaslas Pond
GOWER	3 April	Castell Du		
CARMARTHEN	23 March	Dryslwyn		
PEMBROKE	10 April	Skomer	22 Aug.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	2 April	Llanrhystud	21 Sept.	Teifi est.
BRECON	4 April	Blaen Dyffryn	26 July	Blaen Dyffryn
RADNOR				
MONTGOMERY	27 March	Dolydd Hafren	19 June	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	5 April	Dwyrdd	26 June	Dyfi Junction
CAERNARFON	23 March	Morfa Madryn	9 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	10 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		
DENBIGH	30 March	Acrefair	6 Sept.	Llay Pool
FLINT	8 April	Connah's Quay NR	1 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

(C) A scarce breeder, also a common passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	915	1263
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%
No of 1km squares	224	221

Breeding: GWENT: breeding proven at three sites, and possible at a fourth; E.GLAMORGAN: no proven breeding but territorial behaviour by pairs at two sites; GOWER: two pairs probably bred at Sedgers Bank/Port Eynon, and two at Whiteford Point; CARMARTHEN: probably bred at Machynys; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred at Morfa Dyffryn; eight fledged young at the Artro on 8 June are presumed locally bred; nesting behaviour observed in Aberdyfi sand dunes; CAERNARFON: four pairs thought to have bred at Morfa Madryn reserve, with a fifth between here and Morfa Aber; several pairs bred between Dinas Dinlle and Pontllyfni, 19 juveniles of various ages seen on 4 July; one pair bred at the mouth of R.Dwyfor; two territorial pairs at Morfa Abererch; pair nested at Morfa Nefyn beach; two territorial pairs at Porth Ceiriad; ANGLESEY: three pairs attempted to breed at Cemlyn, fledging three young from one late brood; pair bred successfully on Newborough beach; DENBIGH: pair bred at Pensarn; FLINT: pair bred at one location.

Non-breeding: although widespread around the Welsh coast, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Ringed Plover is at less than half its level of the 1980s. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated on the following page.

Other large counts (100+): GOWER: max. count at Weobley, 400 on 10 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 18 May, and 130 here on 15 Nov.; 100 on the Artro on 13-17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 100 on the Cefni estuary on 13 May; 110 at Foel on 22 Sept.; FLINT: 200+ at Talacre on 12 May; 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30-31 Aug. and 100 here on 29 Sept.; 126+ near Rhyl on 10 Sept.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)		3		106	160	2	36	413	294	121	28	15
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Sands area					p			200	16	6		
GOWER												
Whiteford	35	15	6	25	140	6	80	129	180	125	30	59
Crymlyn Burrows	126	87		18				206	220	40		
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	152	92	31	10	20		4	83	211		56	60
Taf est.									200	10	15	6
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	18			120	380		29	250	350		18	
CAERNARFON												
Lower Conwy est.	14		19		35			c45	c115	c80	c75	74
Traeth Lafan	75	150	12		c40	8	7	128	180	62	52	41
Pwllheli			1					109	18	59		1+
ANGLESEY												
Alaw est.	150+				236		43	50				
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay		100+			27			110+		110+		
FLINT												
RSPB Point of Ayr		2			500	20		200				200+

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

(C) Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct as a breeder in many counties. It is also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially when there is hard weather to the east. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding: GWENT: at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), young were seen on several dates though counts were in low single figures; five pairs at Wilcrick; 1-2 pairs probably attempted breeding at four other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: two nests at Parc Slip NR; predated egg found in dunes at Kenfig NNR; territorial behaviour noted at Dowlais Top and Fochriw; GOWER: pair fledged three young at Whiteford; CARMARTHEN: three nests at Penclacwydd, but no young fledged; two pairs bred at Cross Hands but all eight chicks were predated by gulls; PEMBROKE: breeding attempted at Castlemartin Corse, outcome unknown; CEREDIGION: 43 pairs nested at RSPB Ynys-hir fledging 59 chicks (productivity of 1.4 young reared per pair); pair fledged one chick near Ystrad Meurig; BRECON: several nest-scrapes and one with a single egg in maize stubble at Great Porthamel Farm were found in early Apr. but were ploughed-in over ensuing days; 5-7 pairs at the 'Rushy field', Llangorse; two pairs fledged chicks at Garnlydan; one brood at Brechfa Pool; single pairs at Tŷ Gwyn Farm (Llangorse), Cwrtyplythyn Farm and Pontybat Farm; five birds displayed at Troedyrharn Farm, Brecon; MONTGOMERY: up to three nesting pairs in the Llanidloes area;
No of BirdTrack records	2134	2187	
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	10%	
No of 1km squares	359	377	

Parc Slip NR; predated egg found in dunes at Kenfig NNR; territorial behaviour noted at Dowlais Top and Fochriw; GOWER: pair fledged three young at Whiteford; CARMARTHEN: three nests at Penclacwydd, but no young fledged; two pairs bred at Cross Hands but all eight chicks were predated by gulls; PEMBROKE: breeding attempted at Castlemartin Corse, outcome unknown; CEREDIGION: 43 pairs nested at RSPB Ynys-hir fledging 59 chicks (productivity of 1.4 young reared per pair); pair fledged one chick near Ystrad Meurig; BRECON: several nest-scrapes and one with a single egg in maize stubble at Great Porthamel Farm were found in early Apr. but were ploughed-in over ensuing days; 5-7 pairs at the 'Rushy field', Llangorse; two pairs fledged chicks at Garnlydan; one brood at Brechfa Pool; single pairs at Tŷ Gwyn Farm (Llangorse), Cwrtyplythyn Farm and Pontybat Farm; five birds displayed at Troedyrharn Farm, Brecon; MONTGOMERY: up to three nesting pairs in the Llanidloes area;

MEIRIONNYDD: seven pairs nested in the Penllyn outfall area, Tywyn; one brood at Dyfi Junction; one brood fledged at Morfa Dyffryn; two pairs at Morfa Harlech, at least one hatching chicks; nesting behaviour by 2+ pairs at Waen yr Hydd, Llandrillo; possibly bred on Llanycil Common; CAERNARFON: at RSPB Morfa Dinlle, a slight fall in the breeding population to 50 pairs, 34 nests were found and 29 chicks fledged (productivity 0.58 fledged per pair). Hatching success was excellent (90%), but losses occurred at the chick stage for reasons unknown; 37 pairs bred and 26 chicks fledged at Morfa Madryn (productivity 0.7 fledged per pair); ANGLESEY: eight pairs nested at RSPB Valley Wetlands fledging 4 young; also bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga and Cors Erddreiniog and a pair defended territory at Cors Goch; DENBIGH: breeding confirmed at two locations; FLINT: breeding confirmed at one location.

Non-breeding; the sharp decline in its breeding status in Wales is not reflected in the numbers visiting outside the nesting season: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales remains as strong as at any time since it was created in the 1970s.

Regular counts at the main wintering areas, holding 500+ at least once:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
GWENT								
Newport Wetlands	200	302	102		80	287	588	2000
GOWER								
Weobley	1850	30				132	360	250
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	700	1270	3		22	71	190	450
Upper Loughor	1140	428	50					148
CARMARTHEN								
Penclacwydd	750	603	43		48	92	414	930
Tywi est.	694	160				67	126	545
Taf est.	913						133	550
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau est.	4123	2056	45			213	832	6585
CEREDIGION								
Dyfi est.	1314	663	74		72	415	750	800
Teifi est.	700	450					2	66
MEIRIONNYDD								
Broadwater	155	150	0		50	299	315	1200*
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd est.	152	6	0		14	25	6	618
Morfa Harlech	122+	1110+	5			96	98+	200+
CAERNARFON								
Foryd Bay	1600	480	4		80	10+		50
ANGLESEY								
Malltraeth/Cefni est.	200+							c1500
DENBIGH								
Kinmel Bay	2500+						300+	
FLINT								
near Rhyl	2400	86	10		54	40	500	700
Gronant	438	156	1			48	615	581
White Sands	320	200			70	320	560	1000
Connah's Quay NR	2000	800	2		130	96	950	1700

*third highest ever count in Meirionnydd.

Other large flocks (500+): PEMBROKE: 2000 at Carew-Cresswell in Jan. and 2500 here in Dec.; 1000 at Daugleddau in Jan.; 1100 on E. Cledau in Dec.; 1596 at Hook-Sprinkle in Dec.; 1000+ at Trefeiddan on 8 Jan.; 500 at Rudbaxton on 17 Jan.; 1000 at Castlemartin Corse on 20 Jan.; 700 at the Teifi estuary on 28 Jan. and 550 here on 5 Feb.; 500 at Marloes on 24 Nov.; 2500 off Landshipping Quay on 15 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 800 at Dolydd Hafren on 10 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 1500 at Tŷ Croes on 16 Jan.; FLINT: 3100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18 Jan.

KENTISH PLOVER *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*

CWTIAD CAINT

(A) Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. On WRP list. 46 previous records

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Sker Point on 18 Apr. had been colour-ringed in France. It was the first in East Glamorgan since Apr. 1981.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGYLFNIR

(C) Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland, small numbers occasionally over-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Birds thought to be on passage were recorded from 5 March (Gower) to 11 Nov., with small numbers recorded at several sites during June. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 30 at least once) are tabulated.
No of BirdTrack records	688	834	
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%	
No of 1km squares	174	188	

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy foreshore					50	55		5	17			
Newport Wetlands				18	74	2	7	4	1			
Peterstone Wentlooge					55	87	1	11	14	2	1	
E.GLAMORGAN												
Sker Point area				45	47			3	1			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd				7	200	2	62	41	3			
CAERNARFON												
Porth Ysgaden				3	35		2			1		
Bardsey	1	1	1	37	36	3	12	14	6	2	1	1
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy				57	60							

Other large counts (30+): GWENT: 50 at Redwick on 22 Apr.; 43 at West Pill on 28 Apr. with 30 here on 6 May; 51 at Collister Pill on 7 May; 87 at St Brides Wentlooge on 8 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 45 at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 11 May; GOWER: 67 at Penclawdd/Crofty on 8 May; 62 at Wernffrwd on 8 May; 87 at Whiteford on 20 July; CARMARTHEN: 30 at Tywyn Bach on 28 Apr.; PEMBROKE: 45 at Bluckspool on 10 Apr.; 45 at Castlemartin Corse on 30 Apr.; 32 at Picton Ferry on 26 Apr.; 40 at Marloes on 27 Apr.; 32 on Tenby Golf course on 27 Apr.; 70 at the Gann on 27 Apr.; 100 on the Angle peninsula and a further 45 at Freshwater West on 30 Apr.; 140 at Kilpaison on 30 Apr.; 50 at Marloes on 3 May;



PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 30 on the Teifi estuary on 2 May; 45 at Teifi Marshes on 3 May; CEREDIGION: 121 at Glandwr fields on 23 Apr.; 52 at Aberleri on 5 May; MEIRIONNYDD: 31 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 29 Apr.; 40 at Llandanwg on 18 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 115 at Penrhyn Cwmistir on 8 May; ANGLESEY: 52 at Carmel Head on 30 Apr. and 44 here on 7 May; 32 at Llyn Traffwll on 12 May; FLINT: 31 near Rhyl on 27 Apr. and 41 here on 3 May.

Wintering records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Swanbridge in Jan.; CARMARTHEN: one in Pwll area from 2015 to 19 Mar.; a record of one at Pembrey Burrows on 5 Feb. may have been this individual; one at Pembrey Harbour on 22 Nov. may have been wintering; CEREDIGION: the over-wintering bird from 2015 on the Dyfi was seen on 5-6 Jan. at RSPB Ynys-hir; one again here on 7 Nov. (subsequently seen in January 2017); CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey over both winter periods; ANGLESEY: one wintered at Cemlyn during the first winter period, and one returned here for the second winter period; FLINT: one near Rhyl on 3 Dec.

Inland records: CARMARTHEN: four at Cynwyl Elfed on 21 May; CEREDIGION: one at Cors Caron on 30 Apr.; BRECON: one at Llangorse on 19 Apr., with probably the same bird at Llangorse Sailing Club on 22nd; MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren on 6 May.

Curlew chick (Tony Pope)



CURLEW *Numenius arquatus***GYLFINIR**

(C) A fairly widespread but declining breeding species throughout most of Wales, and an abundant winter visitor mainly to coastal areas, where small numbers are present all year round. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3386	3719
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	18%
No of 1km squares	574	578

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 68% below its 1995 level, when the Curlew had already become a scarce breeding species in many places that it had formerly inhabited.

Breeding: GWENT: a couple of records suggested possible breeding but nothing confirmed; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed near Rhaslas Pond; pair in courtship flight and showing territorial behaviour at Fochriw in Apr.; single at Eglwysilan Common on 7 June; CARMARTHEN: four in suitable breeding habitat at Cilycwm on 30 Mar.; one calling at Figyn Common on 16 June; PEMBROKE: three pairs bred on Skomer, as last year; CEREDIGION: breeding season records from Cors Caron, Ystrad Caron and Ffair Rhos; BRECON: displaying pairs at Roman Road, Mynydd Illtyd (two), Cefn Llechid, Y Gaer (Cradoc), Llandefalle Hill (SW), near Pant-y-llyn, Brechfa Pool, Bronllys, Llangorse, Tretower, Llangynidr (N), Pencelli, Llethr Waun-lwyd (SW) and Waun Mynydd (E). There were no reports of nests or young; MONTGOMERY: breeding probably successful at Castell Caereinion; MEIRIONNYDD: displaying birds at Rhiwbryfdir, Blaen y Cwm, Maestron, Cwm Prysor, Ceunant y Gaseg, Foel Boeth, Cwm Hesgyn. 2-3 territories around the east side of Moel Fferna, North Berwyn, and at least two pairs around Llanycil Common; two pairs south of Llyn Trawsfynydd obviously had youngish chicks in the area; possibly bred at Waen yr Hydd, Llandrillo, at Sirior, Llyn Mynyllod and Palé; CAERNARFON: four birds thought to hold territory at Bryn Odol, Tudweiliog; two pairs on territory at Gwaun Gynfi; pair displayed at Cors Brychyni; one at Blaen Eidda Isaf near Ysbyty Ifan and two at Cors Gyfelog could also have been breeding; ANGLESEY: displayed at RSPB Cors Ddysa, Cors Goch and Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: bred at two upland locations, one clutch predated by a Raven; FLINT: three possible breeding pairs.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has plateaued in the last decade, having fallen by 50% since 1990, but these are long-lived birds, so this may give a false impression of breeding success across its range.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Mathern	222	546	124	55	5		30	26	50	174	22	182
GOWER												
Weobley	176	37	81		20		25	414	1021	674	1222	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	300	476	308	80	18	71	808	1018	900	365	418	48
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	529	488	225			77	1311		403	393	459	387
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	760	717	639					140	337	438	377	206
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1091	2060	427	1	c80	c300	1720	1742	1335	2026	1449	1467
FLINT												
RSPB Point of Ayr	800+	400	320	500	40	5	1500	1000	2000	1000	500	500

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa***RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU**

(C) A common spring and autumn passage migrant; it is common to abundant and increasing in winter on the Dee. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1106	958
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	4%
No of 1km squares	130	142

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, having shown huge growth in the 1990s, has gone into reverse in the last three years, returning to its turn-of-the-century level.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding 50 or more at least once) are given in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	1	5	41	120	11	15	120	236	162	57	53	60
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Crofty	112	12					590	620	800	650	750	1100
Loughor Bridge	61	16		11	211							
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	103	98	205	511	353	380	463	876	1048*	668	847	1010
Gwendraeth est.		120	50	21				8	40	25		24
Tywi est.	8		51									
PEMBROKE												
Cledau est.	12	52	2						16	37	96	55
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5		1	1	2		c40	3	22	24	26	76
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	2	14	2		13		1	4	3	4	3	60
FLINT												
Flint		560					1100				5000	
RSPB Point of Ayr							1	3	2	400	100	10
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh		4	30	2			1000	150	60	120	4000	1100

*the count of 1048 at Penclacwydd on 4 Sept. was a record for the site.

Other large counts (50+): E.GLAMORGAN: 60 on the Rhymney estuary on 9 Apr.; GOWER: 84 at Whiteford on 9 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 139 at Morfa Bacas on 22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 68 at Neyland on 11 Feb.; 60 at Cosheston Pill on 27 Aug. and 85 here on 24 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 72 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 20 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: 92 at Corsydd Glaslyn on 24 Aug.; FLINT: 1200 at Connah's Quay NR on 1-2 Aug., and 3000 here on 15 Nov.

Inland records: CEREDIGION: one at Pont Gogoyan on 22 Nov.; BRECON: one at Llangasty on 10 Sept; MONTGOMERY: two at Dolydd Hafren on 16 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Llyn Tegid on 12 July.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica***RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH**

(C) A passage migrant and winter visitor, more numerous in autumn than spring. Rare away from the coasts but has been recorded in all inland counties. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	172	290
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	79	121

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s. Its new low in 2015/16 is at just 10% of its 1975/76 peak. Now only small numbers occur in most coastal counties.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Collister Pill					53	4			1			2
Peterstone Wentlooge				42	6			1	21			
Newport Wetlands	1		5	2	8		2	2	86	4	1	
GOWER												
Crofty/Wernffrwd	77	64			3	2	8		43		118	
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey					13	2			31	64	41	3
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	16	24							19	106	59	57
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	17	4	1		1			3	30	70	20	107
ANGLESEY												
Alaw est.							1+	14	52		86	
FLINT												
RSPB Point of Ayr					5	22	18	6	82	110	9	

Other counts of 50+: GOWER: 200 at Whiteford on 15 Jan.; 290 at Penclawdd on 9 Nov.; CEREDIGION: strong spring passage, mainly on the Dyfi, with peak counts of 105 at Ynyslas on 22 Apr. and 55 here on 23 Apr.; CAERNARFON: 73 on Bardsey on 11 Sept. was the third-highest count recorded here.

Inland records: BRECON: one at Llangasty on 20 Apr.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres***CWTIAD Y TRAETH**

(C) A passage migrant in spring and autumn but most abundant in winter. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. It is rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	849	1156
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%
No of 1km squares	230	246

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable for 20 years having fallen dramatically in the late 1980s.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	35	10	5	24	11	4	12	9	11		14	64
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rest Bay and Sker Point	46	55	65	49	16	31	30	38	50	20	20	32
Sully beach	30	65	53	7				10	36	45	38	38
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier	22	1	3		6		2	138	133	125	46	117
Whiteford	140	31						1	12	1	3	276
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		2	2	7	7			3	64	92		
Gwendraeth est.									14		68	
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	50	45	36					c.65	166	c.45	19	16
Llandudno								55	c.85	c.110	c.80	106
lower Conwy est.			45	104	118				3	96+	c.240	c.275
Traeth Lafan	137	112	190	62			6	71	66	80	166	161
Foryd	100	60	80	16				56	40	70	1	
Bardsey	17	18	27	27	28	31	60	84	98	58	28	31
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay	65+				81		280+			363	382	

Other counts of 50 or more: ANGLESEY: 50 at Cemlyn on 27 Jan.; 68 at Beaumaris on 19 Sept.; FLINT: 50 at Mostyn on 13 Nov.

Inland: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Rhaslas Pond on 11 May; MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren on 13 May is only the second vice-county record.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

PIBYDD YR ABER

(C) A common winter visitor to some of the major estuaries, but relatively scarce elsewhere, also a passage migrant in spring and autumn. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	313	399
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%
No of 1km squares	87	102

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates but has generally returned to its 1970s level following a period of decline. A marked decrease has been noted on the Dee estuary and Carmarthen Bay, but the Burry Inlet remains an important wintering area in a Welsh context.

Monthly max. at the main sites (counts of 300 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Whiteford	12	80	120					50	6	37	350	
Penclawdd/Dalton's Pt.	5000	460					18	2	331	750	3550	
Crofty	2400	850							380	400	750	
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	3500	800	350									
Weobley	3200	260						6			2540	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3000	400	500	95	27	18	13	107	773	638	1500	600
FLINT												
Mostyn	2500*		200									
RSPB Point of Ayr	2500*					1+			1	10	200	1

*The flock at Mostyn and RSPB Point of Ayr in Jan. were possibly the same.

Other counts of 300+: FLINT: 500+ at Talacre on 21 June; 400+ near Rhuddlan on 5 Aug.; 550 near Gronant on 13 Nov. Inland records: BRECON: two at Llangasty on 10-11 May.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

(B) A fairly common passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	125	177
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	32	39

Approximate monthly totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				2	5	5	2	7	11	22		
E.GLAMORGAN				1				4				
GOWER	2					1			2			
CARMARTHEN				2	1	3	1	8	6			4
PEMBROKE							1	5	3			
CEREDIGION					1			2	7			
BRECON									1			
MEIRIONNYDD								5	3			
CAERNARFON								1	3			
ANGLESEY			1	5	3	1		6	14	1		
DENBIGH					3				1+			
FLINT			4	2			9+	1+	1+	1+		

Monthly max from sites recording 10+ birds at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)				2	5	5	2	6	8	20		
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga				4					11			

Other high counts (4+): ANGLESEY: four at Cemlyn on 28 Aug.; FLINT: eight at Talacre on 27 July.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris falcinellus*

PIBYDD LLYDANBIG

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Six previous records.*

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18-21 June; FLINT: one near Gronant on 11 June was relocated at Horton’s Nose, DENBIGH, on 13-14 June and seen again near Gronant on 22 June.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(B) *An uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, recorded in every month but principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	75	339
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	17	72

A large influx into Britain during the autumn was partially reflected in Wales, and illustrated with a four-fold increase in BirdTrack records and geographic spread.

Approximate monthly totals:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT		1	2	1	1	9	8	9		
E.GLAMORGAN						2				
GOWER			1			4	12	3		
CARMARTHEN						5	26	19	2	1
PEMBROKE		1				5	14			
PEMB/CERE Teifi est.							8			
CEREDIGION						12	5			
MEIRIONNYDD						1	5			
CAERNARFON						11	18	1		
ANGLESEY	4			1		2	14	3		
DENBIGH						2	2	1		
FLINT						5	1	1		

SANDERLING *Calidris alba***PIBYDD Y TYWOD**

(C) A winter visitor, locally common on sandy beaches in Flint, Carmarthen and Glamorgan. A spring and autumn migrant on the coast. Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	263	324
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	105	105

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated as available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Sands/Sker Point	32	37	100	62	58	53	3	200	42	32	48	36
Newton Beach/Point	21	74			70						35	63
GOWER												
Whiteford	110	33			79			6	30			40
Crymlyn Burrows	259	230	5					164	256			
Aberavon/Baglan	160	650	175						250		470	300
Blackpill	67	110									98	93
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	46	100		70			6		1000		600	500
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	593	400	320	300	50			405	750	300	240	
MEIRIONNYDD												
Morfa Harlech	93	180		12	57							
CAERNARFON												
lower Conwy est.			c60		7			2	5	23	c25	38
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay	162		350+		70+			35+			350+	

Other flocks of 50+: GWENT: 50 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 24 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 70 on Traeth-yr-Afon beach on 10 June; GOWER: 125 at West Pier, Swansea, on 25 Jan.; 58 at Kenfig rivermouth on 12 May; CARMARTHEN: 110 on Llanelli Beach on 19 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Newport on 10 May; FLINT: 700+ near Gronant on 1 June and 400+ here on 4 June; 130+ near Rhyl on 26 Dec. Inland records: BRECON: one moulting into summer plumage at Llangasty on 11 May.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina***PIBYDD Y MAWN**

(C) A scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few poorly drained upland moors with scattered pools. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1361	1733
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%
No of 1km squares	246	285

Breeding: BRECON: pair close to a freshly-worked, empty scrape at a traditional breeding site on 30 April, outcome unknown but an adult was present on 5 July; territorial behaviour seen at another suitable location on 26 May; CAERNARFON: pair showing defensive behaviour at Morfa Madryn on 23 May.



Dunlin (Dan Rouse)

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new low point in 2015/16, just one-third of its peak in 1975/76 and a greater decline than Scotland or England (but similar to Northern Ireland). Dunlins occur in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 1000+ at least once) are tabulated:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Mathern	3000	450	20	8	13			11	199	176	830	842
Undy foreshore	1310	175	386	34	76			5		1100	45	
Newport Wetlands	200	20	31	650	1025		300	406	634	1000	810	2000
Peterstone Wentlooge	1600	2000		18	15			176	48	27	550	2000
GOWER												
Whiteford	1000	360	27		883	21	21	247	580	18	600	600
Weobley	1944	790	7		405			600	600	300	3100	10
Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	3000	1900	1000		49					750	3580	275
Salthouse/Dalton's Pt.	1800	220		1				6	200	127	370	250
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2000	1000	300	55	186	7	53	26	89	160	200	2000
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	2141	2837	171				3		155	50	1316	4378
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	98	135	32	440	1200		530	650	350	248	350	82
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	388	640	556		c200		1	220	244	c600	2157	1328
FLINT												
Mostyn		3100	600									
RSPB Point of Ayr	1000	2200			2000	50	20	300	20	80	3000	600
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	400	400	100	3	70		12	2500	120	50	600	130

Flocks of 1000+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: c.1000 on the Inland Sea on 17 Jan.; FLINT: 2000 at Talacre on 12 May, possibly the same as the flock at RSPB Point of Ayr (above).

Inland sightings included: GWENT: a single at Llandegfedd Res. on 26 July; BRECON: all passage reports came from Llangorse Lake, regularly 1-2 birds; max. count three on 16 Apr.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

PIBYDD BAIRD

(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. 17 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: a juvenile at Kenfig on 13-14 Oct. was the second vice-county record.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

(A) Rare American vagrant, on BBRC list. Seven previous records.

PEMBROKE: a juvenile at the Gann on 5-8 Aug.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

(C) A scarce winter visitor in small numbers to coastal areas with rocky shorelines. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	This species appears to be declining in Wales, with counts at most of the regular sites down in recent years. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 10 at least once) are tabulated:
No of BirdTrack records	98	89	
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	38	50	

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore-by-Sea	3	6								1	2	18
Porthcawl seafront	4		16									1
Sker Point area	5	5	13	14	3						3	1
GOWER												
Sedger's Bank/Pt Eynon	9	10	8							5	15	9
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	24	16	23	25	20		10	9	15	13	2	12
Rhos Point	4	11	2									4
ANGLESEY												
Trearddur Bay	8	7										20
Cemlyn	11			14						5		7

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis*

PIBYDD BRONLLWYD

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 61 previous records.

PEMBROKE: a juvenile on Dale Airfield on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 3 Sept. was the fourth record for the island and the vice-county, and the first since 1980.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta***PIBYDD BACH**

(B) *An uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn; has occasionally wintered. It is rare inland. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	100	196
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	29	45

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Apr., followed by four on 10 May and singles on 14, 19 and 20 May, then on return passage from 21 July with the same or other singles on 24, 25 and 27 July, two on 16 Aug., six

on 20 Aug., four on 24 Aug., 1-2 throughout Sept. and early Oct., ending with one on 6 Oct.; elsewhere, four birds through Peterstone Wentlooge on 24 Aug.; one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 18 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: two summer-plumage birds inland at Rhaslas Pond on 10-11 May; one at Kenfig Sands on 11 Aug.; one at Sker Point on 16 Aug.; one at Ogmore estuary on 22 Aug.; one at Traethyr-Afon on 25 Aug.; one reported at Kenfig NNR on 6 Sept.; GOWER: one overwintered at Wernffrwd from 2015; one at Cwm Ivy Tor on 7 Aug.; one at Whiteford on 1 Sept., and another here on 15 Sept.; one at Weobley on 4-10 Sept., with a second bird reported on 6th; PEMBROKE: singles on Skomer on 15-21 Aug., 17 Sept., and two here on 19-24 Sept.; one at Angle Bay on 3 Sept. and two here on 19 and 27 Aug. singles on the Gann estuary on 18 Aug. and 11 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1-2 on the Teifi estuary during 18 Aug. to 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: small numbers on the Dyfi between 18 Aug. and 3 Oct. with monthly peaks of four on 22 Aug., four on 28 Sept. and one on 3 Oct.; BRECON: juvenile at Llangasty on 3-4 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: singles on the Broadwater on 18 Aug., at Llandanwg on 21 Aug., at Aberdysynni on 21 Aug. and 2 Sept. and on the Broadwater on 9 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one at Morfa Madryn on 6-7 Sept, another here on 13 Sept.; one passed Bardsey on 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: singles at Cemlyn on 13 Sept. and 2 Oct.; DENBIGH: 1-3 at RSPB Conwy between 6 Aug. and 7 Oct., max. count on 28 Sept.; FLINT: 1-2 birds at Rhyl on several dates between 28 Aug. and 13 Sept.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos***PIBYDD CAIN**

(A) *A scarce visitor, on WRP list. 134 previous records.*

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14-18 Sept., possibly the same juvenile seen previously at Northwick Warth, Gloucestershire; CARMARTHEN: juvenile at Kidwelly Quay on 13-14 Oct.; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy on 31 Aug. and 12-13 Sept.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius***LLYDANDROED LLWYD**

(B) *An uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas and in the period September – October.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	45	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	19	12

A poor showing for this sea-going wader, largely because of an absence of gales during September migration.

E.GLAMORGAN: first-winter birds at Lisvane Res. on 5-6 Sept. and East Aberthaw on 7-8 Nov.; GOWER: one at Kitchen Corner, Rhossili, on 30 Sept.; PEMBROKE: one at St. Justinians on 6 Jan.; 10 birds recorded at Strumble Head: singles on 3 Aug., 2 and 16 Sept., three here on 17th and two on 29th, then singles on 4 and 9 Nov.; CEREDIGION: four flew into the Dyfi estuary and disappeared from view near the Leri mouth on 10 Dec.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos***PIBYDD Y DORLAN**

(C) A summer visitor that breeds in all counties except Pembroke, albeit sporadically on Anglesey and Flint. Very small numbers over-winter. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	713	990
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%
No of 1km squares	230	255

Single wintering birds: GWENT: at Gobion/The Bryn in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmores estuary in Jan. and at least one on the river/estuary in Nov./Dec.; Barry Dock in Jan. and 30 Nov.; GOWER: at Eglwys Nunydd Res. from 17 Jan.; two on Afan

estuary on 13 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: North Dock on 23 Jan.; Commissioners' Bridge on 4-23 Feb.; Lliedi river mouth on 24 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Radford Pill and Carew River; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 18 Nov.; Glandyfi on 18 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen on 13 Nov.; Tal-y-cafn on the Conwy estuary on 4 Dec.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 28 Dec. (probably the Tal-y-Cafn bird, above); FLINT: at Rhyl on 5 March may have overwintered.

Breeding records for this species are incomplete. GWENT: pairs noted at three sites and displaying birds at another two; E.GLAMORGAN: birds seen in suitable locations at Llwyn-on Res, Pontsticill Res. and Rhaslas Pond; GOWER: probably bred at four sites, and possibly along R. Tawe at Swansea Vale; CARMARTHEN: on breeding sites in the Tywi valley from 20 April; CEREDIGION: breeding season records at four sites; BRECON: pairs at 10 sites; continued decline in numbers noted on the Usk between Llansantffraed and Pencelli where just six birds occupied 3-4 territories on 19 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 pairs at 13 sites, and singles present in the breeding season at three others; CAERNARFON: seven in Nant Ffrancon on 7 May, with 1-3 birds recorded at 16 other likely breeding sites.

Passage was recorded from 10 Apr. until at least 3 Nov. Max. counts: GWENT: 14 at Gobion on 19 Apr.; 10 at Llandegfedd Res. on 26 July; 19 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 5 Aug. and 10 here on 22 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Cardiff Bay barrage in Apr.; 11 at Cardiff Bay on 29 Apr.; 11 on the Ogmores estuary in July and 10 in Aug.; GOWER: seven at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 1 May; 11 at Castell Du on 24 July; 12 at Brunel Dock on 29 July; CARMARTHEN: 11 between Pwll and Pembrey Harbour on 21 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 21 at St Dogmaels on 27 April; 14 at Carew Mill on 12 July; 11 at St. Dogmaels on 7-17 July; 32 in the Cleddau estuary in July; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 22 in the Teifi estuary on 27 Apr., 13 here on 21 July and ten on 20 Aug.; BRECON: six at Llangasty on 29 Apr.; MEIRIONNYDD: eight at Caerdeon, Mawddach, on 26 Apr.; 31 at Maes y Garnedd, Mawddach, on 12 July, the highest count ever for the vice-county; CAERNARFON: 13 on Bardsey on 5 Aug., nine here on 18 Aug.; ANGLESEY: nine at Cemlyn on 11 May and 18 July; DENBIGH: eight at RSPB Conwy on 28 Apr.; FLINT: seven near Rhuddlan on 29 Apr.; seven at Connah's Quay NR on 4 July.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius***PIBYDD BRYCH**

(A) Vagrant, on BBRC list. 11 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one seen briefly on Skokholm on 12 June.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus***PIBYDD GWYRDD**

(C) A regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	160	121
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	62	63

Winter records: GWENT: on the R. Usk, one at Llanfihangel Gobion in Jan. and three in Feb.; one between Llanfallowell and Newbridge in Jan. and two in Feb.; one at Llanellen in Feb.; four at The Bryn on 3 and 26 Nov.; one at Llanfihangel Gobion in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: at R. Ely Pendoylan/Peterston, four in Jan. and Feb. and eight in Dec.; one on the Ogmore estuary in Jan.; one at Abercwmboi Lake on 18 Jan.; one south of Cowbridge on 14 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: two at Dryslwyn in Jan., one here in Feb. and two in Dec.; one at Cefn Padrig in Feb.; one at Commissioners' Bridge on 15 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one at Minwear on 14 Jan.; one at Rosebush Res. on 17 Jan.; one at Landshipping on 6 Feb.; CEREDIGION: one at Swyddffynnon on 7 Feb.; up to three at RSPB Ynys-hir in the first winter period and two in the second winter period; one at Cors Caron on 28 Feb. and in Dec.; one at Glandwr on 18 Dec.; BRECON: three on the R. Usk at Scethrog on 6 Nov., a favoured wintering location; MONTGOMERY: at Dolydd Hafren in all months except May and July, max. count four on 4 Jan.; singles at Caersws in Mar. and Oct. and west of Llanidloes on 28 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Penrhyndeudraeth WTW on 2 Jan. and 3 Mar.; one at the Dwyrdd on several dates from 22 Oct. to 30 Dec.; four at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 1-3 Dec; CAERNARFON: one at Foryd on 16 Jan.; ANGLESEY: two at Llanfachraeth on 22 Jan. and one here on 25 Feb.; one on the Alaw estuary until 10 Dec.; DENBIGH: one on the R. Clwyd, near Rhuddlan on 22 and 28 Jan.; FLINT: one at Shotwick Fields on 17 Dec.

Passage maxima (3+): GWENT: six on the R. Monnow at Llangua on 12 Mar. and 12 on the R.Usk at Gobion on 6 Apr.; three near Newbridge on 18 Sept.; three at The Warrage on 20 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: three at Dryslwyn on 19 Aug.; three at Llanedi on 23 Aug.; PEMBROKE: three at the Gann on 18 Aug.; CEREDIGION: nine at Cors Caron on 17 Aug.; up to three at RSPB Ynys-hir in the first winter period and again in Aug.; BRECON: six at Talybont Res. on 21 Aug.; three at Llangasty on 22 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 17 May, then 3+ on 17 Aug., four on 27 and 30 Aug., three on 24 and 29 Sept. and five on 18 Oct.; CAERNARFON: three on Bardsey on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: three on the Alaw estuary on 28 Mar., and again on 10 Aug. and 2 Sept.; FLINT: four near Deeside Industrial Park on 5 Mar.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus***PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG**

(B) An uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties chiefly in autumn. Small numbers over-winter on the Dee, Burry and Cleddau. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	412	447
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	36	45

Numbers present in vice-counties:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)	1	3	3	1	1		1	4	6	5	4	3
GOWER												
CARMARTHEN	4	3	2				2	1	5	6	4	2
PEMBROKE								1	1			
CEREDIGION	1							1				
MEIRIONNYDD								1*	1	2	2	
CAERNARFON		1								1	4	1
ANGLESEY		1						1	1			
DENBIGH				1				1+	1+	1		
FLINT												
Connah's QuayNR/ RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	1	1	10	1+		1+		17	20	10+	7	1

*also seen in Montgomery

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(C) Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, uncommon inland. Small numbers over-winter. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	874	984
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%
No of 1km squares	124	129

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a long-term increase since the 1970s.

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 15+ at least once or 8+ in winter) are tabulated

below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	2	3	4	4	4	3	4	8	15	10	4	4
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	19	16	17	9	1	2	43	60	87	40	16	18
Gwendraeth est.	16	3	9				21	40	40	25	22	24
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	11	10	15				18		25	22	15	17
CAERNARFON												
Morfa Madryn	2	1	1					2	17	13		1
Foryd	9	5	12	5		1	2	5	1	9	3	1
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR		8						15	18	18	8	

Other counts of 5+ birds: MEIRIONNYDD: seven in the Glaslyn/Dwyrdd estuary in Feb. and six here in

Dec.; CAERNARFON: five at both Aber Ogwen and Bangor harbour in Dec.; DENBIGH: five at RSPB Conwy on 11 Dec.
 Inland records: BRECON: singles at Llangorse Lake on 8 and 23 July, 3 Aug. and 4 Oct.

Approximate monthly totals where available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	2	3	6	5	5	3	5	16	17	11	5	4
E.GLAMORGAN				3		1	1	12	11	1		
GOWER								4	8	9		
CARMARTHEN	36	20	26	9	1	2	64	101	127	73	38	42
BRECON							2	1		1		
MEIRIONNYDD		7		3				11	7	8		6
CAERNARFON	20	12	14	7	2	2	3	22	35	47	12	12
ANGLESEY	7	6	8	1			9	21	14	23	11	6

Counts of 10+ birds: PEMBROKE: 10 at Carew on 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 29 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 9 May.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*
(B) A scarce passage migrant recorded in every vice-county, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	42	30	All records were of single birds: GWENT: at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18 June, 5 Aug. and 16-26 Aug.; heard calling over Dingestow Court on 17 Aug., an unusual inland record; GOWER: at Staffal Haegr on 24-26 April, 9-19 Aug. and 18-30 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 9-14 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 13 April; RSPB Ynys-hir on 22-24 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 8 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 11 May and 5 Oct.; Alaw estuary on 23-25 Aug. and on 7 Sept.; FLINT: White Sands on 7 Aug.
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	17	16	

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*
(C) A scarce and declining breeding species, confined chiefly to salt-marshes but with a few pairs inland. Abundant wintering population. Wales Red listed.

PIBYDD COESGOCH

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	2740	2869	Breeding: GWENT: at least three broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); probable breeding at St. Brides Wentlooge, West Usk Lighthouse and Ebbwmouth; CARMARTHEN: pair laid eggs at Pembrey Burrows, but outcome unknown; CEREDIGION: 33 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir; presumably bred at Cors Caron and at Aberleri, Glandwr and on the edge of Cors Fochno; MEIRIONNYDD: eight territorial pairs on Ynys Saltings, Dyfi Junction, on 1 April, but spring tides around the 11th reduced this to one pair by the 19th. Pre copulation display noted here on 18 May; five pairs at Morfa Harlech; pair showing agitated behaviour at Mochras saltings indicating a nest or young on 8 June; CAERNARFON: at Morfa Madryn, where a
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	14%	
No of 1km squares	361	374	

pair bred in 2015, a pair may have attempted to breed, with defensive behaviour noted on 23 May and an agitated bird here on 8 June, but breeding is thought to have failed.

In contrast to its declining breeding status, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached an all-time high in 2015/16 having been relatively steady since the 1990s.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Nedern Wetland	301	197	110	51	1	1					1	187
Peterstone Wentlooge	138	120	208	46	15	13	74	126	110	350	300	250
Ebbwmouth roost	60	200	250	220	2		160	250	140		100	310
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney est.	150	800	500	290				700	384	250	800	1000
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	106	91	204	316	7	125	193	364	315	83	104	40
Gwendraeth est.	72	114	20				230	700	400	366		120
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	463	585	248				265		203	410	432	519
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	212	219	179	87	66				69	35	300	154
CAERNARFON												
lower Conwy est.			360		1					c150	22	c120
Traeth Lafan	317	247	617	1	28	10	10	83	786	1677	919	1367
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	282	422	276	504	1	1	337	804	941	852	450+	697
FLINT												
RSPB Point of Ayr	220	150	65	10	1		40	300	300	700	400	150
Flint	1120		876					2000			30	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	200	240	120	70			300	200	500	1000	900	400
Connah's Quay NR	70	760	14	28		100	800	1450	4200	881	50	10

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*
(A) Vagrant, on BBRC list. 20 previous records.

MELYNGOES BACH

ANGLESEY: one on the Alaw estuary on 6-8 Sept. is the third record for the vice-county.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyrtes minimus***GIACH FACH**

(B) A fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	72	88
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	50	53

Birds were recorded until 7 May and from 23 Sept.
Approximate vice-county totals where available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	6	5	2	1			2	5	8
GOWER	5	4	4				2	3	5
CARMARTHEN	2	10	3		1	1	2	1	
PEMBROKE	6	2	3				1		
CEREDIGION	1	2				9	6	2	4
BRECON	1	1		1			3	5	1+
MONTGOMERY							7		3
MEIRIONNYDD							2	4	
CAERNARFON	12	1	3	0	0	0	3	3	13
ANGLESEY	8	1	3				4		3

Large counts (5+): GWENT: six at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 25 Sept.; GOWER: five at Oxwich Marsh on 31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Pembrey Burrows on 2 Feb.; CEREDIGION: nine at RSPB Ynys-hir on 28 Sept. and up to six throughout Oct.; MONTGOMERY: seven near Llyn Hir on one night in Oct.; CAERNARFON: 11 at Foryd in Jan.; 8+ at Tal-y-Cafn on 4 Dec.; ANGLESEY: five at Traeth Dulas on 2 Jan.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola***CYFFYLOG**

(C) A regular breeder in small numbers in all counties except Pembroke and Anglesey. It is widespread and common/abundant in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	142	181
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	100	124

The breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood. All records of roding or possibly breeding birds are given: GWENT: single birds in the breeding season at Hafod Farm, Llanishen, Wentwood and Newport Wetlands

Reserve (Uskmouth); four roding males at Broad Meend on 2 June; MEIRIONNYDD: one at North Liberty Hall, Berwyn, on 18 Apr. may have been breeding; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: one on the edge of Ceiriog Forest on 2 June; CAERNARFON: three visits to Cors Bodgynydd, a usual roding site, during the BTO Woodcock survey found no birds.

Maximum passage and wintering counts: GWENT: four at Clydach Gorge on 2 Jan.; five over Hafod Farm on 18 Feb. and 6-7 here in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: no record of more than two birds; GOWER: four at Brynmoel Farm on 6 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: numbers in the Cynghordy area were higher than usual with a max. of 10 in two woods (total acreage 4.5 acres) and five at Cynnant on 15 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 28 at Maenclochog on 10 Jan.; 16 at Frenni on 5 Mar. and 12 here on 6th; 13 roosted at Goodwick Moor on 3 Mar. and 17 on 23 Dec.; eight at Dyffryn Mawr on 4 Mar.; seven at Boncath on 7 Jan. and nine here

on 7 Dec.; CEREDIGION: nine at Blaenwood near Llandygydd; BRECON: five feeding at night in dairy pastures during a lamping and ringing session at Upper Pendre Farm on 9 March; four at Coed y Rhaiadr on 29 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: only seven records received; MEIRIONNYDD: no record of more than two birds; CAERNARFON: nine at Gloddaeth Lane, Penrhyn Bay, on 21 Jan.; six at Nefyn on 9 Nov.; nine at Tal-y-Cafn on 7 Dec.; DENBIGH: 12 at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen, on 14 Nov.; 12 near Llyn Brenig on 20 Nov.; FLINT: 15 near Penycloddiau in the second winter period.



Snipe (Bob Garrett)

SNIPES *Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

(C) A widespread breeding bird, nesting in all counties but in small and declining numbers. Substantial numbers in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1047	1183
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%
No of 1km squares	299	321

Breeding: GWENT: possibly bred at six sites, with two pairs confirmed breeding at one site; CEREDIGION: present in the breeding season at five sites, but presumed to be more widespread;

BRECON: intensive surveying of the uplands particularly in the north found 14 territories where drumming/chipping birds were located, half of these in suitable upland bog habitat of SE Elenydd; MEIRIONYDD: at Yr Ynys, Mawddach, a survey following targeted mowing management in wet meadows suggested c.20 pairs compared to 10 pairs before management.; one chipping at the southern end of Llyn Trawsfynydd on 10 Apr.; one chipping in the breeding season at Tan yr Allt; two chipping at Hafod Uchel, Palé, on 21 Apr. and one flushed from Cefn Llwyd, Palé, on the same date; two flushed at Maes y Garnedd Marsh, Mawddach, on 12 July could also have been breeding; CAERNARFON: one drumming/chipping on Gwaun Gynfi in April and May; up to four chipping/drumming between Capel Curig and Pen-y-gwryd in April-June; one chipping near Llyn Lockwood in April-June; pair and two males drumming near Llyn Cwmffynnon in May, with two still drumming here in June; one at Rachub on 19 April could also have been breeding; ANGLESEY: one drumming at Cors Goch; one drumming at Cors Bodeilio; DENBIGH: one chipping in Mynydd Hiraethog; FLINT: one drumming at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: having shown a sustained increase until a decade ago, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has halved since 2004/05.

Monthly max. at sites with significant winter counts of 40+:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT									
Newport Wetlands	2	6	30	5	7	33	39	46	135
Peterstone Wentlooge	5	13	9	1	1	6	2	6	85
E.GLAMORGAN									
East Aberthaw lagoon	8	8	4			2	7	10	40
Watermill Flood		6			3		59		8
GOWER									
Oxwich	2	30	4	9			2	40+	60+
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	33	16	12	4	3	7	5	28	14
Pembrey Burrows	29	120	10	1	1	32	15		51
PEMBROKE									
Castlemartin Corse						40	60	100	
Cleddau est.	32	100	8			5		19	100
BRECON									
Mynydd Illtyd	63	57	20	nc	1	18	58	68	53
Llangorse Lake	10	18	25	20	2	14	36	40	63
ANGLESEY									
RSPB Cors Ddyga					40	17	20		25
Cefni est.	100								50
Cors Bodeilio	c.125							50	
DENBIGH									
RSPB Conwy	68						50+		106

Other counts of 40+: CEREDIGION: 44 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 12 Jan.; BRECON: At Y Gors (Trecastle), 46 on 12 Nov. and 53 on 23rd; RADNOR: 80 at Rhosgoch Bog on 11 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 100 near Llyn Hir in Oct.; CAERNARFON: 40 at Cors Geirch on 4 Oct.; FLINT: 40 near Rhuddlan on 25 Feb.; 40 at Flint on 16 Oct.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

SGIWEN FRECH

(B) A fairly common offshore passage migrant, particularly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	70	42
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	24	13

PEMBROKE: two birds passed Skokholm on 2 June; just 10 birds recorded at Strumble Head: one on 4 Aug., one on 4 Sept., three on 10 Sept. and two on 29 Sept.; one on 17 Oct. and two on 18th; CEREDIGION: adult off Aberporth on 5 Aug.; one off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; a dark morph two miles NW of New Quay head on 23 Sept.; one off Llanrhystud on 9 Oct.; one off Aberystwyth on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON: dark-phase bird off Crickieth on 1 Sept.; two off Rhos Point on 5 Nov.; 36 individuals off Bardsey: singles on 14 April, 8 and 14 May, 22, 24, 28 and 31 Aug., three on 23 Aug., two on 26 Sept., 11 on 29 Sept., two on 3 Oct., singles on 5 and 16 Oct. and three on 18th; ANGLESEY: two off The Range on 27 June; singles passed Point Lynas on 4 Sept., 8 Oct. and 19 Oct.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

(B) Passage bird off coastal counties; scarce in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	60	38
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	35	19

GWENT: one flew up-channel past Peterstone Gout on 23 Apr.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Aberthaw on 16 Jan.; one in Ogmere estuary on 26 Jan.; two at Cardiff (heliport) foreshore on 24 Apr.; one at Swanbridge on 29 June; singles at Porthcawl on 10 July and 4 Sept.; one at Breaksea Point on 29 Nov.; GOWER: one off Port Eynon Point on 18 Apr., three here on 4 and 22 Aug. and two on 4 Sept.; one at Tutt Head on 20 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: single birds off Cefn Sidan on 20 and 22 Apr.; one off Pembrey Harbour on 18 Sept.; five off Cefn Sidan on 19 Sept; PEMBROKE: 224 birds on 31 dates off Strumble Head between 25 July and 10 Nov. (see monthly summary below), max. day count was 25 on 21 Aug.; Skokholm recorded six birds, two in spring and four in autumn; seven off Skomer, the first on 4 Aug., the last (three birds) on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: three off Aberystwyth on 13 Apr.; singles at Ynyslas on 25 Apr. and 3 May; one at Mwnt on 13 Aug.; a juvenile six miles WSW off Aberystwyth on 15 Aug.; four off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; two off Aberystwyth on 27 Aug.; one at Aberaeron on 3 Sept.; 17 passed New Quay head on 4 Sept.; five passed Gwbert and seven passed Mwnt on 10 Sept.; six passed New Quay on 29 Sept.; one off Llanrhystud on 9 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey had an unusually good spring (see table below), almost 10% of the previous spring passage since 1953; off the mainland, two between Crickieth and Black Rock on 19 Aug.; one off Crickieth on 12 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two off The Range on 25 Apr., and singles here on 29 Apr. and 15 May; singles off RSPB Ynys Feurig on 16 May, 29 June and 5 July; one off Cemlyn on 18 May; one past North Stack on 22 Aug.; off Point Lynas on two dates in Aug., three in Sept. and one in Oct. (max. day count 19 on 16 Sept.); at Cemlyn: on four dates in Aug. and four in Sept. (max. count seven on 5 Sept.).

Monthly totals Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Strumble Head, PEMBROKE:

	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bardsey	8	1	1	33	76	15	1
Strumble Head			2	66	137	18	1

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

(A) *An uncommon visitor recorded chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales, spring records are very infrequent. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	19	15
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	7	6

PEMBROKE: Strumble Head recorded the same total as 2015: juveniles on 16 and 29 Sept., two on 17 Sept., and four on 18 Oct. with single first- and second-summer birds the same day; CAERNARFON: off Bardsey, second-year on 21 Aug., two juveniles on 7 Sept., with another on 11th; ANGLESEY: juvenile passed Cemlyn on 5 Sept; one passed Amlwch on 10 Sept.; two passed Point Lynas on 16 Sept; one passed Cemlyn on 13 Sept.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

(B) *Regularly recorded on autumn passage along the west coast where small numbers are also seen in winter and spring. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	61	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	34	9

A poor year for records, with BirdTrack sightings from less than a third of locations compared to 2015, and eastern counties noting very few. 100 during the year at Strumble Head is the fifth lowest count since 1980.

E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Porthcawl on 4 Jan. and 4 Sept., and Lavernock Point on 21 May; GOWER: singles at Oxwich Bay on 21 Jan. and Knab Rock on 4 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: singles at Cefn Sidan on 5 May, 18 Oct. and 22 Oct.; PEMBROKE: two on 7 Jan. at Strumble Head, then one in spring and 97 birds on 28 dates in autumn between 4 Aug. and 23 Dec. (see monthly summary below). The max. day count was 24 on 21 Aug.; 16 passed Skokholm, three in spring and 13 in autumn; 11 off Skomer; one off Grassholm on 22 July; CEREDIGION: one at the Teifi estuary on 4 Aug.; three off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; one at Ynyslas on 23 Aug.; one off Aberystwyth on 3 Sept.; one off New Quay on 4 and 9 Sept.; one off Gwbert on 10 Sept.; one at Llanon on 15 Oct.; one off Aberystwyth on 17 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Aber Dysynni on 25 Aug.; CAERNARFON: all records were off Bardsey (see summary table below). Max. count was six on 15 and 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two passed Cemlyn on 1 Jan.; one dead on Aberffraw beach on 27 Feb.; one at The Range on 7 April, then two on 25th, three on 29th and one on 18 June; three passed Point Lynas on 24 Aug., one on 4 Sept., four on 16th, one on 9 Oct. and one on 19th, then one on 22 Nov.; two passed Cemlyn on 4 Sept., one on 13th and eight on 17th; one off Carmel Head on 10 Sept.; one at North Stack on 18 Oct.; FLINT: injured juvenile at Connah’s Quay NR on 18 Sept.

Monthly totals Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Strumble Head, PEMBROKE:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey		1			16	24	18	6	
Strumble Head	1				40	53	2	1	1

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica***PAL**

(C) A breeding bird of offshore islands and a few western headlands. Formerly bred in large numbers. Wales Red listed. The count unit is apparently occupied sites (AOS).

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	172	215
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	43	42

Breeding: PEMBROKE: two individuals on St Margaret's Island; one occupied cliff-crevice on Stackpole Head (cf. two AOS in 2015); 6692 individuals counted on Skokholm on 13 Apr. was the highest spring count since the early 1950s,

slightly up on the 6665 in May 2015; 22,539 individuals counted on Skomer was an increase of 5.57% on 2015 and the highest total since current records began in 1988. Productivity on Skomer bounced back to 0.78 chicks fledged per occupied burrow, 12% higher than 2015 and much higher than 2014 following the previous winter's severe storms; CAERNARFON: 110 birds on Bardsey on 22 July was the highest count of the year, with many birds seen carrying fish to their young in burrows. They nest within an extremely dense Manx Shearwater colony so the exact occupancy figure is unknown. The estimated population is thought to be at least 60 pairs plus several new small colonies spreading along the East Side; a systematic burrow count on Ynys Gwylan Fawr found 682 AOS, a 9.5% decrease on the ten-year mean; no burrow count at Ynys Gwylan Bach, though birds were noted attending burrows; ANGLESEY: four birds at Puffin Island on 23 May and nine here on 23 June; just seven individuals at South and North Stack; bred on The Skerries in small numbers.

Other counts included: GOWER: one in Swansea Bay on 24 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one off Aberporth on 30 July; one off Cardigan headland on 21 Aug.; three off Cwm Tydu on 14 Dec.; CAERNARFON: see summary table for counts from Bardsey; one off Morfa Nefyn on 30 Sept.; ANGLESEY: first recorded at RSPB South Stack on 4 April; two off Carmel Head on 16 April; 32 off Cemlyn on 26 June and 14 here on 3 July; one passed Point Lynas on 29 July and three on 8 Aug.

Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey			3	34	79	102	133	8				

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle***GWYLOG DDU**

(A) A very scarce breeding resident in Anglesey and rarely elsewhere. Occurs sparingly off the coasts of Wales outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	137	127
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	49	36

Breeding: PEMBROKE: presumed breeding by one pair at Fishguard Harbour; CAERNARFON: one off the Great Orme on 11 Apr. and 2 May; a 'singing' bird on Bardsey on 8 Apr. and 14 May; ANGLESEY: one off RSPB Ynys Feurig on 10 June; regularly at Cemlyn during the season (max. four); probably bred near Wylfa; bred in Holyhead Inner Harbour; probably bred underneath cliffs north of Benllech.

All other records away from above sites: CEREDIGION: juvenile off Aberporth on 4 Aug.; juvenile/first-winter bird off Mwnt on 13 Aug.; CAERNARFON: two off Llanfairfechan on 7 Feb., 21 Aug. and 13 and 19 Dec.; three off Bangor docks on 23 Feb. and singles here on 25 and 28 Jan.; juvenile at Pen y Cil on 20 Aug.; singles off Bardsey on 2 July, 31 Aug. and 11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: max. count 12 in Holyhead Harbour on 16 Jan.; one in Beddmanarch Bay on 10 Jan.; one off Traeth Lligwy on 11 Jan and seven

here on 9 Apr.; two off Traeth Bychan on 23 Jan.; three in Porth Eilian on 10 March; two at Aberlleiniog on 9 Apr.; four passed Point Lynas on 6 Nov.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

LLURS

(C) A breeding resident on the cliffs and islands of the north-west and south-west. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2015	2016	Breeding: PEMBROKE: 87 AOL on Caldey was a further slight increase (cf. 75 in 2015 and 58 in 2014); 281 AOL on St Margaret’s Island was an increase on numbers recorded here in 2015 and 2014 (cf. 239 and 205 respectively); 1608 AOL
No of BirdTrack records	431	430	
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%	
No of 1km squares	134	141	

along the Castlemartin peninsula was the highest number recorded here; 2242 AOL on Skokholm was 5.9% down on 2382 in 2015 but nonetheless the third highest total yet recorded (55% up on the 2006-2015 mean); 7250 AOL on Skomer was 3.19% lower than last year. Adult survival of 95% the previous winter (2014-15) showed a recovery from a sharp drop recorded after the seabird wreck of 2013-14; bred also on Grassholm, Ramsey and at Needle Rock, Dinas Island, but no counts made; CEREDIGION: several small breeding colonies between New Quay and Cardigan island, but no counts were carried out; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, 2302 AOL (only 67 fewer than in 2016); 38 AOL on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, with a further six AOL visible on Ynys Gwylan Bach; on the St Tudwal’s Islands, 66 AOL on the East island and 62 on the West Island (total of 128 AOL, cf. 121 AOL in 2014); at Trwyn Cilan, 122 AOL (cf. 75 in 2014); ANGLESEY: at RSPB South and North Stack, a max of 1067 AOL; 210 occupied nests on Puffin Island on 23 June.

Other counts included: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig Sands on 8 Nov.; one at Porthcawl on 9 Nov.; four at Sker Point on 10 Nov.; one at Nash Point on 19 Dec.; GOWER: 25 at Broughton Bay on 25 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: recorded off Cefn Sidan on 5 May, five dates in Oct. and three in Nov.; one at Penrhynwyn on 19 Nov.; one at Cefn Padrig on 20 Nov.; CEREDIGION: max. count 400 off Borth on 14 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 13 off Penllyn, Tywyn, on 3 Nov.; 22 off Broadwater on 20 Nov.; 765 heading north off Aberdyfi on 5 Nov. was a new vice-county record count and probably following the huge whitebait shoal in Cardigan Bay at that time; CAERNARFON: regularly around the coast, the only large counts were 40+ off the Great Orme on 9 Apr. and 60 here on 24 Apr.; ANGLESEY: small numbers passing Cemlyn during the season, max. count 15 here on 5 Sept.; singles on the Inland Sea on 25 Sept., 2 Oct. then two here on 25 Oct. and one on 4 Dec.; DENBIGH: one at Old Colwyn on 3 Oct.; FLINT: one at RSPB Point of Ayr on 20 Oct.

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	130	31	306	455	2247	1135	861	31	2061	3967	2229	112

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle***CARFIL BACH**

(A) Scarce winter visitor in irregular numbers offshore on the western seaboard. Most sightings in late autumn and early winter; often associated with westerly gales.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	13	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	10	3

With a quiet autumn for Atlantic low pressure systems, there were few records, and most of those below were in January.

All records: PEMBROKE: one near Castlemartin on 10 Jan.; one found dead at Strumble Head on 28 Jan.; CAERNARFON: two off Rhos Point on 5 Nov.; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR, 14 miles up the Dee estuary, on 10 Jan.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge***GWYLOG**

(C) Resident breeding species in SW and NW counties, moving out to sea to moult after breeding and returning to the vicinity of colonies as early as Dec. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	539	500
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%
No of 1km squares	178	174

Breeding: GOWER: present around Worm's Head from Jan. to July, max. count 40 on 10 Mar.; PEMBROKE: 38 AOL on Caldey was 10 more than in 2015 but similar to numbers in 2014; 1403 AOL on St Margaret's Island was a slight increase on

2015 and 2014 (cf. 1197 and 1266 respectively); 20,095 AOL along the Castlemartin peninsula was a 4% increase on the 2014 count; 3949 AOL on Skokholm was a 9.6% increase on the 2015 count and the highest total yet recorded on the island; no whole island counts on Skomer, although study plots suggested an increase of 3.68% on 2015. Productivity within plots was 0.63 and was 0.89; bred also on Grassholm, Ramsey and at Needle Rock, Dinas Island, but no counts made; CEREDIGION: several breeding colonies between New Quay and Cardigan but no counts carried out; CAERNARFON: new Bardsey record of 1346 AOL, an 8.5% increase on last year and 33.4% higher than the 2007-2016 mean. Sample productivity of 0.26 was the same as the ten-year mean; 19 AOL on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, with a further 32 AOL on Ynys Gwylan Bach; on the St Tudwal's Islands, 1139 AOL on the East Island and 352 on the West Island, a total of 1491 AOL (cf. 1392 AOL in 2014); a decline at Trwyn Cilan, where there were 1632 AOL (cf. 2233 in 2014 (JNCC)); ANGLESEY: max of 8122 individuals at RSPB South and North Stacks.

Other counts (5+) or otherwise notable included: GWENT: one grounded in a Liswery garden on 29 Jan.; one off Collister Pill on 22 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: six off Irongate Point on 10 July; significant numbers of auks, mainly Guillemots, were in the upper Bristol Channel in Nov. and early Dec., though many were too distant to be safely identified: the largest count of Guillemots positively identified, was 57 on 7 Nov., 89 at Irongate Point on 9 Nov. and 69 at Sker Point on 5 Dec.; GOWER: max. count 100 at Knab Rock on 21 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 20 off Cefn Sidan on 18 Oct., 10 here on 22 Oct and one on 2 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: six at Aberdyfi on 5 Nov.; CAERNARFON: c.900 off Rhos Point on 25 Apr.; 309 off Porth Ysgaden on 5 May; ANGLESEY: 1000 on breeding ledges at RSPB South Stack on 28 Dec.; DENBIGH: four at Rhos-on-Sea on 8 May was the only record of more than a single; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR on 19 Sept.

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	725	919	1882	340	660	595	425	13	16	170	304	363

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons***MORWENNOL FECHAN**

(B) A summer resident which breeds only at one colony in Flintshire, otherwise a spring and autumn passage migrant to other coastal areas, rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	37	71
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	15	20

Breeding: FLINT: the Gronant colony had a successful season with 141 breeding pairs and 170 fledglings. Merseyside Ringing Group ringed 196 nestlings between 18 June and 2 Aug. and colour-ringed two adults; one pair fledged two young at

RSPB Point of Ayr, for the second consecutive year.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
E.GLAMORGAN	29 April	Kenfig Pool	20 Aug.	Porthcawl
CARMARTHEN	5 May	Cefn Sidan	24 July	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	4 Aug.	Strumble Head	31 Aug.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	20 April	Llanrhystud	22 Aug.	Ynyslas
BRECON	10 May	Llangorse Lake		
MEIRIONNYDD			21 Aug.	Aber Dysynni & Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	1 April	Bardsey	16 Oct.	Llanfairfechan beach
ANGLESEY	5 May	Cemlyn		
FLINT	28 April	Gronant	21 Aug.	RSPB Point of Ayr

All other records: PEMBROKE: eight birds off Strumble Head, the two noted above and six on the 31 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one at Llanrhystud on 24 Apr.; nine at Ynyslas on 19 Aug., and three here (two adults and a juvenile) on 20-22 Aug.; BRECON: two at Llangorse Lake on 10 May were plunge-diving among lily-pads near the western reedbeds, one still present the next day; CAERNARFON: one off Rhos Point on 2 May; Bardsey had its first records for five years: four on 1 Apr., singles on 17 Aug. and 11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two at Cemlyn on 5 May; DENBIGH: 1-2 though the summer at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay, max. count three on 21 May, 4 and 8 June; FLINT: exceptional count of 807 at Gronant on 20 July with re-sightings of colour rings suggesting many were on passage including birds from Kilcoole, Ireland (Gronant Tern Report 2016).

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica***MORWENNOL YLFINBRAFF**

(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. 17 previous records.

PEMBROKE: on Skomer on 9 May; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 5 June was the first record for East Glamorgan; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: one in the Loughor Bridge area on 18-21 May is the fifth record for Carmarthenshire and fourth for Gower.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger***CORSWENNOL DDU**

(A) A fairly common passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn but also recorded on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	70	48
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	28	27

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	6 May	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)	21 Aug.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN			22 Aug.	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.
GOWER			25 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
PEMBROKE			30 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION			4 Sept.	off New Quay
BRECON	10 May	Llangorse Lake	13 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MEIRIONNYDD	10 May	Llyn Trawsfynydd	20 Aug.	Ynys
CAERNARFON			18 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 May	Cemlyn	17 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH			19 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	12 May	Shotton Steelworks	21 Aug.	RSPB Point of Ayr

Other records not included in the table above: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 12 May; GOWER: one at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 20 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 20 records at Strumble Head (max. count 10 on 13 Sept.); four off Skokholm on 13 Sept.; two at St. Brides Bay on 13 Sept.; eight in Fishguard Harbour on 24 Sept.; record count of 13 off Skomer on 29 Sept.; CEREDIGION: immature at Ynyslas on 20 Aug.; BRECON: a good year at Llangorse Lake: eight on 10 May of which two remained the following day; one on 31 May; one on 21-22 Aug.; one on 8-9 Sept., joined by a second on 9th, remaining until 11th; CAERNARFON: one at Llanfairfechan on 26 Aug.; one at Morfa Aber on 3 Sept.; three off Bardsey on 11 Sept. and one on 25th; ANGLESEY: six at Cemlyn on 20 Aug., then two on 21 Aug. and one on 29 Aug.; one passed Point Lynas on 24 Aug.; FLINT: four at RSPB Point of Ayr on 20 Aug.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus***CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN**

Rare visitor on passage from Eastern Europe, on BBRC list. 36 previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult at Penberi Res., St. David's, on 25-26 May; BRECON: juvenile at Llangorse Lake on 28 Aug. is the third vice-county record; FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR on 17 June.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis***MORWENNOL BIGDDU**

(C) A summer visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas in spring and autumn, scarce inland; it is a regular breeder on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	498	572
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%
No of 1km squares	174	162

Breeding: ANGLESEY: a successful season at Cemlyn lagoon with an estimated 2595 pairs fledging 1900 juveniles.

Large counts elsewhere: GOWER: max. count 27 at Port Eynon Point on 18 Apr.; CARMARTHEN: 33 at Burry Port on 14 Apr.; 137 in Burry Port/Pembrey Harbour area on 6 Sept.; 115 off Pwll on 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 539 recorded at Strumble Head (max. count 70 on 4 Sept.); 29 off Skomer on 5 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 40 at Ynyslas on 25 Apr. and 200 here on 16 Aug.; 79 at New Quay on 4 Sept.; 35 at Aberaeron on 21 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 130 at Llandanwg/Artro on 18 Aug.; CAERNARFON: (see also table below); peak count at Traeth Lafan was 616 at the Glan-y-môr Elias roost on 21 Aug.; 40+ off Criccieth promenade on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 60 in Benllech Bay on 13 Sept.; DENBIGH: 40 at Kinmel Bay on 24 Apr.; unusually large number of records from RSPB Conwy with a high count of 36 on 3 Sept.; 700 on the R. Clwyd south of the railway bridge at Kinmel Bay on 8 Aug.; FLINT: 30 at Gronant dunes on 21 Apr.; 1500 at RSPB Point of Ayr on 21 Aug. was a very high count for the vice-county.

Monthly maximum counts, CAERNARFON:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Bardsey		2	2	18	12	59	17	2
Foryd		6	10	16				
Traeth Lafan	8	1	420	75	420	616	275+	1
lower Conwy estuary			8				200+	30
Rhos Point		9	38			150	100+	

Inland vice-county records: BRECON: three at Llangasty on 14 Sept. One with a yellow 'darvic' ring 'A32' had been ringed as a chick on Ameland, West Frisians Island, Netherlands on 22 June 2014.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT			8 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	5 April	Lavernock Point	21 Aug.	Rest Bay and Porthcawl
GOWER	28 March	Bracelet Bay	6 Sept.	West Pier, Swansea
CARMARTHEN	7 April	Telpyn Point	18 Oct.	Cefn Sidan
PEMBROKE	4 April	Broadhaven (south)	6 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	13 April	Llanrhystud	12 Oct.	Ynyslas
MEIRIONNYDD	14 April	Morfa Harlech	25 Sept.	Broadwater
CAERNARFON	13 March	Llanfairfechan	16 Oct.	Llanfairfechan
ANGLESEY	20 March	Cemlyn	16 Sept.	Point Lynas
DENBIGH	24 April	Kinmel Bay	27 Sept.	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	21 April	Gronant dunes	18 Sept.	RSPB Point of Ayr

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo***MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN**

(C) A summer visitor, breeding in Anglesey and Flintshire. It is a spring and autumn passage migrant to all coastal areas, sometimes found inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	237	230
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	63	52

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 60 pairs nested at Cemlyn but only two young fledged; 290 nests on The Skerries, with a max. fledgling count of 59; 165 nests on RSPB Ynys Feurig, but only two young fledged; FLINT: 423 nestlings ringed at Shotton

Steelworks.

Large counts elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 16 at Irongate Point on 10 May; 25 at Lavernock Point on 7 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 30 off Skomer on 13 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 16 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 10 May; 80 at Ynyslas on 20 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 51 among a large passage of terns off Bardsey on 1 June; 14 at Rhos Point on 23 Aug.; FLINT: 48 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5 May, and 25 here on 21 Aug.

Inland records: GWENT: 32 at Llandegfedd Res. on 12 Sept.; BRECON: minimum monthly totals at Llangorse Lake estimated as two in May, one in July, one in Aug. and 20 in Sept.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	11 May	Llandegfedd Res.	12 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	11 April	Cardiff Bay	12 Sept.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	12 April	Oxwich Point	6 Sept.	West Pier, Swansea
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Burry Port	5 Sept.	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	17 April	Penally	17 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	10 May	Ynys-hir and Teifi estuary	31 Aug.	Ynyslas
BRECON	8 May	Llangorse Lake	30 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MEIRIONNYDD	29 April	Tywyn	20 Aug.	Ynys
CAERNARFON	17 May	Bardsey	27 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 May	Cemlyn		
FLINT	24 April	Connah's Quay NR	21 Aug.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii***MORWENNOL WRIDOG**

(A) An occasional breeder on Anglesey; elsewhere scarce on spring and autumn passage at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	43	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	13	5

Breeding: ANGLESEY: on the Skerries, a pair bred very late in the season but was unsuccessful, and two Common-Roseate hybrid pairs also bred here but failed; a juvenile was at Cemlyn on 20 Aug.

All other records: PEMBROKE: two at Strumble Head on 31 Aug.; ANGLESEY: singles at Cemlyn on eight dates between 14 May and 28 July; one at RSPB Ynys Feurig on 24 June and a pair here on 3 July but did not breed.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisea***MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD**

(C) Breeds only around the Anglesey coast, elsewhere a regular passage migrant to coastal areas, but generally scarcer than Common, and scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	190	168
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	40	29

Breeding: ANGLESEY: disappointing season at Cemlyn where 60 pairs fledged no young, owing to predation and disturbance; 3816 nests on the Skerries, with a max. fledgling count of 777. 820

adults and young birds died late in the season as a result of botulism. The cause remains a mystery, but other sick birds were picked up at Cemlyn and Cemaes Bay, and birds also died at the small colony on the Isle of Man; 238 nests at RSPB Ynys Feurig but fledged no young owing mainly to predation by crow sp.

Large counts elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 19 at Strumble Head (max. 10 on 11 Sept.); 87 from Skokholm (max. day count 71 on 13 Sept.); CEREDIGION: 15 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 21 April; 22 at Ynyslas on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 35 passed Bardsey on 14 May, 224 here on 1 June (a new record for the island and the vice-county), 59 on 11 Sept. and 36 the following day; ANGLESEY: 249 north past The Range on 31 May; 20 at Cemlyn on 20 Aug.; 30 passed Point Lynas on 24 Aug.; 20 at Traeth Lligwy on 5 Sept.

Inland records: BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake in April and four here on 12 May.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	2 May	Llandegfedd Res.	2 Oct.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Cardiff Bay	27 Sept.	Cardiff Bay Barrage
GOWER	24 May	Loughor Bridge	13 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
PEMBROKE	27 April	Skokholm	24 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	21 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	17 Oct.	off Aberystwyth
BRECON	24 April	Llangorse Lake		
CAERNARFON	14 May	Bardsey and Great Orme	9 Oct.	Morfa Nefyn
ANGLESEY	30 April	Cemlyn	5 Sept.	Traeth Lligwy
DENBIGH			9 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	18 May	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	9 Aug.	Rhyl Harbour

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini***GWYLAN SABINE**

(A) An uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	10	19
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	2	3

All records: PEMBROKE: a reasonable showing at Strumble Head with 15 birds: 12 adults and three juveniles (max. four on 4 Sept.); juvenile off Skomer on 13 Sept.; CAERNARFON: juvenile off Bardsey on 26 Sept., then an adult here on 19 Oct., a juvenile

on 21st and another juvenile on 28th.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla***GWYLAN GOESDDU**

(C) A breeding species in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire, except Meirionnydd. Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding records: GOWER: bred at Mumbles Pier but no counts; PEMBROKE: 230 AON on St Margaret's Island was slightly lower than in 2015 (cf. 249 AON) but higher than 2014 (cf. 202 AON); along the Castlemartin peninsula, just five AON at
No of BirdTrack records	511	385	
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%	
No of 1km squares	148	128	

Stack Rocks (cf. eight AON in 2015); no young fledged this year and this once thriving colony remains close to extinction; 1477 nests on Skomer, a drop of 4.5% on last year. Productivity was 0.65 chicks per AON, which was 15% lower than 2015. Survival was around the 1978-2015 mean at 80%; further decline in the breeding population on Ramsey where 102 AON recorded (cf. 127 AON in 2015 and 149 AON in 2014); also bred on Grassholm but no counts made; CEREDIGION: breeding colonies between New Quay and Llangrannog but no counts; CAERNARFON: 122 AON on Bardsey was similar to last year, but 27% lower than 2007-2016 mean. The 'Little Kitt' colony fledged a minimum of 27 young from 66 nests, giving a productivity figure of 0.41 young per pair (a 51.2% decrease on 2015 and 31.7% below the 2007-2016 mean); 310 AON at St Tudwal's Island East (cf. 363 AON in 2014); 28 AON at Trwyn Cilan (cf. 15 AON in 2014 (JNCC)); ANGLESEY: 152 at Ynys Moelfre on 25 June, many on nests; 15 nests on NE side of Ynys Moelfre on 22 July; at RSPB South and North Stack, just 13 AON; 80 AON on Puffin Island on 23 June.

Max. counts from coastal watchpoints:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier/Head	3	150	280	250	328	266	325	329	170			
PEMBROKE												
Skokholm			603	620	1254	1022	1,272	573	799	2273	13,913	
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	87	42	97	104	292	584	327	3266	2412	4775	2935	190

Other large counts or notable records: GWENT: six east past Goldcliff Point on 1 Jan.; worn adult at Llandegfedd Res. on 25 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 1-3 in most months of the year; an adult at Llwyn-onn Res. on 8 Apr. was the first record for this inland site; GOWER: 40 at Port Eynon Point on 20 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 17 off Cefn Sidan on 5 May; CEREDIGION: high numbers off Aberystwyth in autumn included 900 on 11 Oct.; 675 off New Quay on 4 Sept.; CAERNARFON: c.1350 passed Rhos Point on 25 Apr. and 110+ here on 30 Aug.; 200+ off the Great Orme on 9 Apr.; 140 flew west past Penychain Head in less than an hour on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 feeding off Bull Bay and 150 off Cemlyn on 27 Jan.; 600 feeding off Moelfre on 19 Aug.; 400 passed Point Lynas on 24 Aug., 342 here on 19 Oct., and 600 on 5 Nov.; 50 off Soldier's Point on 31 Dec.; DENBIGH: one at Gresford Flash on 16 Mar.; 11 off Pentrefelin (three miles up the Conwy estuary) on 28 Aug.; one over Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon, on 16 Nov.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. 21 previous records.

GWYLAN BONAPARTE

E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cardiff Bay on 5 and 19 Apr. was presumed to be returning bird from previous years; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 13 Apr.



Black-headed Gull (Bob Haycock)

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

GWYLAN BENDDU

(C) A locally common breeding resident, scarce only in south and south-east Wales during the summer months. A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	6051	7162
% of BirdTrack lists	36%	38%
No of 1km squares	822	905

Breeding: CARMARTHEN: 369 pairs bred at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: 50 birds present at Gorsgoch on 14 June; BRECON: no nests at Brechfa Pool where breeding has become intermittent; birds collected nest material at Llangasty (Llangorse Lake) on 13 Apr. and a pair was seen copulating, but no breeding took place; MONTGOMERY: 420 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 23 Mar. where it is presumed birds went on to breed; CAERNARFON: at least five nests at Morfa Madyn NR where chicks could be heard calling on 15 June; ANGLESEY: 374 pairs fledged an estimated 400 juveniles at Cemlyn; six AON at RSPB Valley Wetlands fledged at least three juveniles; FLINT: 533 nestlings ringed at Shotton Steelworks.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	700	400	880	105			450	1250	300	200	119	750
GOWER												
Blackpill	1050	3335	384	15	11	117	879	1099	735	498	638	601
Penclawdd	134	1020	71	123	44	98	217	1926	708	115		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	346	588	501	1106	1044	1156	1445	195	157	93	260	232
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	1478	909	910						2272	1047	713	1165
CEREDIGION												
New Quay	1500											
Teifi est.	2000	840										
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	800	1000	1200	10					10	137	600	
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	80	12	4	4	12	12	60	430	87	2033	9746	389
Traeth Lafan	158	30	25+	1	c30	c500	c120	2834	1500	39	c50	20+
ANGLESEY												
Red Wharf Bay											3000	
DENBIGH												
Lleweni Hall	824	2170	1022									
FLINT												
near Rhuddlan	3000	500	2000	14	15	1	580		40		350	6
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	100	200	300			100	5000	2000	40	24	100	
Connah's Quay NR	240	150	200	6	40	160	3000	1500	1000	6	100	100

Other large counts (1000+): GOWER: 1200 at Wernffrwd on 25 June, and 1400 here on 9 Aug.; 1300 at Weobley on 1 Sept. and 1240 here on 31 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Cosheston Pill in Sept.; 1000 at Landshipping on 31 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1500 at Ynys on 28 Aug. is believed to be the largest non-breeding season count ever in Meirionnydd; 1000 at Aberdyfi on 5 Nov.; FLINT: 1033 at Gwespyr, Llawndy, on 21 Feb.; 3000 at Ffynnongroyw Bay on 24 July; 1500 at White Sands on 21 Aug.

Ringling: GOWER: a ringed bird (2BLN) seen at Penclawdd on 13 Oct. was ringed as a chick on 7 June at Marsh Lane NR, Meriden, Warwickshire, 187 kilometres away.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus***GWYLAN FECHAN***(B) A passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast, scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	150	127
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	49	50

All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: second-calendar year at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 19 May to 1 June; E.GLAMORGAN: adult at West Aberthaw on 23 Jan.; second-calendar year on 1 Feb.; adult at Lavernock Point on 18 Feb.; second-calendar year

at Cardiff Bay on 11-15 Apr.; juvenile at Cardiff Bay on 10-14 Sept.; GOWER: Broughton Bay on 2-3 Jan.; off Knab Rock on 8 Jan.; Rhossili on 20 Jan.; first-winter at Afan estuary on 8 Feb.; Upper Loughor on 16 April; Staffal Haegr on 19-24 Apr.; Llanmorlais on 24 Apr.; Knab Rock/Bracelet Bay on 23 May; CARMARTHEN: first-summer at Sandy Water Park on 25 Apr.; first-summer at Cefn Padrig on 7 June; at Penclacwydd on 1 May, and two on 10 June, one remaining to 12th; juvenile at Pembrey Harbour on 21 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Ramsey Sound on 2-19 Jan. and 8 Mar.; the Gann on 3-5 Jan., and 22 Jan-18 Feb.; Fishguard Harbour on 1 May; 22 recorded at Strumble Head: 4 adults and 18 juveniles (max. day count eight on 18 Oct.); Skokholm on 8 Oct. and 7 Nov.; first-winter off Skomer on 13 Sept; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: second-winter on the Teifi estuary from 28 Feb. to 2 Mar.; CEREDIGION: adult at Aberaeron on 7 Jan.; a first-winter at Aberystwyth on 30 Jan. and an adult here on 2 Feb.; adult at Aberporth on 3 Aug.; adult at New Quay on 29 Sept.; adult at Aberystwyth on 8 and 15 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: first-winter at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Apr.; first-winter at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 30 Apr. and 3 May; MEIRIONNYDD: adult on Glaslyn Marshes on 10 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Rhos Point on 8 Feb.; 10 off Criccieth on 8 Feb. and one here on 1 Apr.; on Bardsey: a first-winter on 10 Jan., two on 11 Sept., one on 26 Sept. and three on 29 Sept., two on 4 Oct., six on 28 Oct. and one on 10 Nov.; ANGLESEY: adult at Cemlyn on 26 and 28 July; juvenile passed Point Lynas on 24 Aug.

Inland vice-county records: BRECON: adult on 3-4 Apr., three here on 11th; MONTGOMERY: first-winter at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 17 Mar., two (adult and immature) on 12 Apr., one on 14 Apr., first-winters on 30 Apr. and 3 May; first-winter at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Apr.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus***GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR***(B) An increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties at all times of the year. Rare inland. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	667	628
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%
No of 1km squares	170	144

Breeding: CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at Penclacwydd, but no chicks fledged owing to predation by foxes; MONTGOMERY: adult and second-summer showed signs of nest-building at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas in May but did not occupy;

ANGLESEY: one pair attempted to breed at Cemlyn but abandoned the nest prior to hatching; two juveniles (not Cemlyn-bred) were here on 28 July.

Outside the breeding season, the number of records, and especially of large gatherings, continues to grow – the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has doubled in the last five years. Large flocks were in Gower during the winter, and post-breeding dispersal to fields and beaches in Gower, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion brought upward of 1500 Mediterranean Gulls to Wales in July-Aug. New count records from several vice-counties, but they remain comparatively scarce inland and on the north coast.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rest Bay	6	6							9	6	7	15
GOWER												
Blackpill	85	33	2	15	11	57	192	275	75	97	123	
Bracelet Bay	65	21	7		1	2	16	165	62	130	49	24
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd		1	2	5	17	86	134	1				
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay		11						36	3			
Gann	99	11	5					3	1	3	51	1
Skokholm								1	8+	133	234	
Skomer		7	1				2	2	2	42	5	
CEREDIGION												
Llanon-Llanrhystud							110	430	149			
Aberystwyth							241	190		81		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	3	1	1	1			4	2	2	83	96	4
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	12		7				15	36				

Max. counts or notable records: E.GLAMORGAN: continued increase in records, from July to March, with smaller numbers in spring. June was the only month with no records; max. count 15 on 19 Dec.; GOWER: 32 at West Cross on 27 Jan.; 37 at Brandy Cove on 23 Aug.; 35 at Port Talbot harbour on 27 Aug., and 53 on 17 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: an exceptional year, with counts of 134 (110 adults, five second-summer and 19 first-summer birds) at Penclacwydd on 8 July; 117 at Burry Port on 17 July; 97 on Llanelli beach on 6 Aug.; 146 at Cefn Padrig on 13 Aug.; 214 off Pwll on 11 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 20 records from Skomer, max. count 42 on 8 Oct.; 1171 logged off Skokholm in Sept. (day maxima 133 on 24th) and a remarkable 234 here on 14 Nov. (the largest count for the vice-county), with another 196 in Broad Sound and 38 at the same time in Crab Bay; CEREDIGION: 30 at New Quay on 30 Jan.; a good inland count of 26 between Llangwryfon and Llanddeiniol on 2 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: five single birds during the year; CAERNARFON: seven at Glan-y-môr Elias on 22 July; 19 at Rhuol, Rhiw, on 29 Aug.; 19 at Aberdaron on 3 Nov.; 83 on Bardsey on 23 Oct. was a new record for the island and the vice-county, and followed by 96 on 1 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Four Mile Bridge on 2 Jan.; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 2 Nov.; FLINT: two at Rhyl on 30 Jan. and 23 July.

Inland vice-county records: BRECON: adult at Llangorse Lake on 28 Mar.; MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren on 29 May.

Ringling: ANGLESEY: a white-ringed adult '71A' seen at Cemlyn on 29 Feb. was ringed as an adult in the Netherlands on 19 May 2007.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus***GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD**

(C) A numerous and widespread winter visitor with small numbers recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1355	1392
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	7%
No of 1km squares	369	360

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 250 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Blackpill	723	280	106	65	40	12	222	300	210	165	240	280
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	160	796	78								3	7
Taf est.	40		6					500	2	59		25
CEREDIGION												
New Quay	500											

Max. counts, and all large counts (250+): GWENT: an exceptional flock of over 2000 birds at Llandenny on 30 Jan.; 150-250 birds on three days in the Monnow valley in early Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 103 at Rhymney estuary on 1 Apr.; largest counts in autumn and the second winter period included 164 at West Aberthaw on 13 Nov., 22 at Cardiff Bay and 25 at Sandy Bay - Porthcawl on 19 Dec.; GOWER: c.400 on fields near Kingshall on 13 Feb.; 900 at Wernffrwd on 7 Sept.; 654 at Pwll-y-froga on 20 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: max. counts 32 at Pembrey Burrows on 10 May and 32 at Pembrey Harbour on 7 Aug.; PEMBROKE: max. count 245 on the Teifi estuary on 11 Jan.; CEREDIGION: max. count 50 at Llanrhystud on 24 Apr.; BRECON: 115 at Llangorse Lake on 2 Feb. was a site record; MEIRIONNYDD: max. count 90 on the Dwyrdd on 23 Mar.; CAERNARFON: max. count 130 at Traeth Lafan in Sept.; 145 on Bardsey in Oct.; ANGLESEY: max. count 211 in Beddmanarch Bay on 27 Jan.; 1500 at Red Wharf Bay on 26 Nov. feeding on a shellfish 'wreck'; DENBIGH: max. count 300 at Rhewl on 12 Feb.; FLINT: 2500 in Rhuddlan area on 4 Jan.; 350 at Gronant on 10 Jan., 365 here on 16 Oct. and 280 on 18 Dec.; 580 at Cilcain on 14 Feb. and 270 here on 15 Mar. ; 350+ at Rhyl on 9 Dec.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis***GWYLAN FODRWYBIG**

(B) An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas, chiefly from mid-February to the end of May. On WRP list.

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys y fran Res. from 20 Jan. to 13 Feb., returning on 29 Dec.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

(C) Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5182	7028
% of BirdTrack lists	31%	38%
No of 1km squares	950	1027

Breeding records: GWENT: six AON in a new colony on factory rooftops at Croespenmaen, Blackwood; at least 55 AON on factory rooftops at Hadnock Road, Monmouth; minimum 17 AON at Llanwern Steelworks, from which fledged juveniles were

later seen; no obvious sign of breeding at Denny Island on 18 June; nest on a railway bridge at Chepstow failed; E. GLAMORGAN: 2970 AON on Flat Holm; roof-top breeding reported in Cardiff at Llanishen (10 pairs), Atlantic Wharf (two pairs), Colchester Avenue, Penylan (two pairs) and Western Avenue, Gabalfa (several pairs); Penarth Road (one) and Cardiff Prison (one); also single pairs bred on roof-tops at Barry Dock, Sully and Pontyclun; GOWER: six AON on roof of the old Ford factory in Swansea; 40 AON in locations around Port Talbot, including 24 at the docks; CARMARTHEN: bred on a factory roof at North Dock, Llanelli; PEMBROKE: 503 AON on Caldey was an increase (cf. 426 AON in 2015) but fewer than 2014 (cf. 676 AON); 21 AON on Castlemartin peninsula was an increase on last year (cf. 16 AON) although, since around the mid-2000s, the trend remains one of decline; 1397 AON on Skokholm was the lowest total for over 50 years, 6% down on the 1486 pairs recorded in 2015. Productivity at study colonies was estimated to be 0.23 fledglings per pair, up on the previous year (0.15); 6936 breeding pairs estimated on Skomer, 9.1% fewer than 2015 and 66% down on the population peak in 1993, returning to levels last seen in the mid-1960s. Productivity was just 0.36 chicks per breeding pair and adult survival, at 81%, was nearly 9% lower than the ten-year average; CEREDIGION: bred on Cardigan Island and along the coast, but no colony counts received; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 birds in the colony on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 18 July but no juveniles seen; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, 177 AON, a 16.5% decrease on last year and 7.8% lower than the 2007-2016 mean. Although up to 52 juveniles were seen in nests, few fledged; seven apparently-incubating adults were on Ynys Gwylan Fawr with one on Ynys Gwylan Bach; possibly bred at Llanrhos; ANGLESEY: bred in small numbers near Wylfa; 100 AON at RSPB South and North Stacks; 70 adults on Puffin Island on 23 June; three AON at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred at two coastal sites and inland at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: breeding confirmed at one site.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 200 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Flat Holm							5000					
Cardiff Bay	200	200	160	300	80	130	250	300	100	150	17	50
Cosmeston Lakes CP	60	133	300	300	204	300	210	200	190	160	210	103
Rhaslas Pond		36	95	280	150	120	80	70	10	11	8	17
GOWER												
Blackpill	7	21	55	92	57	88	147	200	176	17	10	9
Upper Loughor est.	21	7	206	57	95	77	284	143	51	28	25	1
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau est.	25	328	59						261	392	136	141
Llys y fran Res.	2500	200	35						950	2500	300	2000
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	970	700	220					50	480	750	600	
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	2	6	92	107	210	164	144	281	76	109	150	2

Other large counts (200+): E.GLAMORGAN: 220 at Lavernock Point on 21 May; 800 feeding on flying ants over Forest Farm NR on 14 Aug.; GOWER: 388 at Berthlwyd on 26 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 600 on Teifi estuary on 6 Jan.; 200 at Broad Haven (N) on 23 Mar.; 800 at Marloes on 28 July; on Skokholm, largest roost counts were in July (max. count 476 on 30th) and Aug. (max. 483 on 6th); MONTGOMERY: 500 at Caersws on 1 Jan.; 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 13 July; DENBIGH: >200 at Gresford Flash on 13, 24 and 27 Nov.; 250 at Kinmel Bay on 9 May.



Herring Gull (Annie Haycock)

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

(C) Formerly an abundant resident in coastal areas, now much reduced. Frequent in many inland areas, breeding on several freshwater sites. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	9387	11104
% of BirdTrack lists	56%	60%
No of 1km squares	1406	1445

Breeding: GWENT: two AON at a new colony on factory rooftops at Croespenmaen, Blackwood; at least five AON at Monmouth’s Hadnock Road colony; absent from Denny Island on 18 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 315 AON on Flat Holm; single pairs bred on roof-tops at Colchester Avenue and Llanishen, Cardiff, and Pontyclun; GOWER: bred at Rhossili/Mewslade; 10 AON on four rooftop sites in Swansea, including seven on the old Ford factory; 42 AON at locations around Port Talbot including 22 at the docks; 20+ AON at The Quays, Briton Ferry; probably bred at Bluepool Corner; CARMARTHEN: bred on a factory roof at North Dock, Llanelli, where 101 adults and juveniles were seen on 7 July; nine AON on a factory roof at Cross Hands; PEMBROKE: 1699 AON on Caldey was a slight increase in the population (cf. 1660 AON in 2015) but below the population here in 2014 (cf. 1890 AON); 225 AON on Castlemartin peninsula was an increase on last year (cf. 191 AON). Following significant declines since the mid-2000s, perhaps the breeding population here is now beginning to stabilise; 322 AON on Skokholm was an 11.4% increase on the 289 nests of

2015, 10.3% up on the 2006-2015 mean, the highest count since 2009. Productivity at study colonies was estimated to be 0.86 fledged young per pair, 30.3% up on the 0.66 recorded in 2015 and 17.8% up on the 2006-2015 mean; 321 AON on Skomer was an all-time low (14.85% decline on 2015). Productivity was also down at 0.52 chicks per breeding pair and survival of adults remained low at 80%; MEIRIONNYDD: few breeding records received. At least 550 adults and 30 juveniles on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 18 July; birds territory-calling in the breeding season around Blaenau Ffestiniog; CAERNARFON: 331 pairs on Bardsey, 4.6% below the 2007-2016 mean but fractionally greater than the long-term mean. Breeding success was the highest since 2007, a minimum of 278 fledging. The 0.84 productivity rate was 27.3% above the 2007-2016 mean. 76 AON on Ynys Gwylan Fawr with productivity of 0.88, 31.3% above the 2007-2016 mean; 37 AON visible on Ynys Gwylan Bach without landing; the combined total of 113 pairs is 18.5% above the 2007-2016 mean; pair bred at Llyn Bochlwyd; bred on rooftops in Rhos-on-Sea, Bodafon, Llanrhos, Penrhynside, Deganwy, Conwy, Morfa Conwy, Llandudno Junction, Gyffin, Great Orme, Llandudno, Llanfairfechan, Bangor, Caernarfon and Porthmadog, and also at Morfa Madryn NR; probably bred at several other sites; ANGLESEY: 425 AON at RSPB South and North Stack; bred on cliffs at Wylfa and many other coastal sites, and on roofs in Holyhead; c.320 adult birds and juveniles on Puffin Island on 23 June; DENBIGH: bred at eleven sites, all coastal except Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred at seven coastal sites.

Non-breeding: in contrast to its declining status as a breeding bird, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2015/16, having doubled since the mid 1990s.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
GOWER												
Whiteford	100	530	992	355	993		3508	4415	510	1240	500	50
Blackpill	400	410	359	250	353	800	858	752	762	1569	2826	604
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	53	455	1346								155	19
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res.	1900								880	935	745	1738
MEIRIONNYDD												
Artro est.	23	43	130	73	31	133	183	198	78	1040		65
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	137	85	360	343	565	656	503	1066	182	2152	592	50
Traeth Lafan	120	1500	800+	2	135	90	c50	49	200	14	60+	40+
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre		400	1	32	1	400	700	2500	4000	300		18

Other large counts (1000+) or interesting records: E.GLAMORGAN: adult showing characters of the nominate race *L. a. argentatus* at Ogmere estuary on 16 Jan. and 30 Dec.; GOWER: 400 at Queen's Dock on 6 Jan. with c.1000 on sea nearby; c.1000 on Crymlyn Burrows beach on 15 Jan.; 1260 at Wernffrwd on 3 Aug. and 1568 here on 1 Sept.; 1074 at Weobley on 1 Sept. and 1240 here on 18 Oct.; 1610 at Landimore Marsh on 25 May; PEMBROKE: 2000 at Wiseman's Bridge on 2 Jan.; 1000 at Marloes on 29 Sept.; RADNOR: 309 at St. Harmon on 9 Jan. is a vice-county record; MONTGOMERY: max. count 700 at Welshpool on 1 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1200 on the Broadwater on 30 Oct.; 2500 at Aberdyfi on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: huge numbers feasted on a shellfish 'wreck' at Red Wharf Bay around 26 Nov., with an estimate of 12,000 to 14,000 birds present; DENBIGH: 1062 at Bodfari on 20 Jan.; at least 1000 at Kinmel Bay on 14 Feb.; FLINT: at least 1000 at Gronant on 10 June; 850 on stubble at Bagillt on 9 Nov.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis***GWYLAN GOESFELEN***(A) An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	85	61
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	22	31

All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: adult from 2015 at Llandegfedd Res. remained into the new year; also a juvenile here on 4 Aug.; near-adult at Osbaston on 22 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: two adults at Cardiff Bay on 1 Jan., adult here on 17th, three adults on 24th, and one on 26 Feb.; adult at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 14 Jan. and 13 Dec.; adult at Ogmere rivermouth on 25 Jan.; fourth calendar-year bird at Knap Lake, Barry, on 31 Jan.; fourth calendar-year at Rhymney estuary on 6 Mar.; at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 19, 24 and 27 Mar., 9 Aug. and 17 Dec.; at Leckwith on 15 July; juvenile at Lavernock Point on 3 Aug.; third calendar-year at Roath Park Lake on 13 Aug.; adult at Cathays Park, Cardiff, on 23 Aug.; GOWER: Llanmorlais on 2 and 31 Jan.; Whiteford Point on 17 Jan.; Swansea Vale on 24 Feb.; Wernffrwd on 25 Feb.; R. Neath saltmarsh on 9 and 18 Apr., two here on 5 May and one on 18 Sept.; Fendrod Lake on 24-27 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: adult at Pembrey Burrows on 13 Feb.; PEMBROKE: three at Llys y fran Res. on 30 Jan. and three here on 29 Dec.; Amroth on 17 Feb. and 22 Dec.; the Gann on 7 Aug.; Wiseman's Bridge on 15-31 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: second calendar-year on the Teifi estuary on 10 Feb.; CEREDIGION: first-winter at Aberaeron on 13 Feb. and second-winter here on 12 Mar.; first-winter at Tanybwllch on 30 Nov.; adult at Ynyslas on 17 Dec.; first-winter on the Teifi estuary on 30 Dec.; BRECON: at Llangorse Lake, two in Jan., one in Feb.-May, one in Aug.-Sept., two in Oct. and one in Nov.-Dec. It is assumed that individuals were long-staying, therefore some duplication is inevitable. However, one on 14 Sept. uniquely involved a bird acquiring first-winter plumage. Other sightings from the vice-county likely to be birds moving to/from Llangorse, including singles at Brechfa Pool (March) and Glasbury (April and Dec.); CAERNARFON: at Criccieth on 22 Apr.; juvenile on Bardsey on 31 July; ANGLESEY: near Trefor on 9-10 Jan.; adult at Penmon Point on 8 June; DENBIGH: at RSPB Conwy on 5 Sept.; Gresford Flash on 11 and 29 Dec.; FLINT: Rhyl on 24 May, 28 July and 28 Aug.; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24 July, 1 and 8 Aug.; at Bagillt on 2 Oct.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus***GWYLAN YR ARCTIG***(A) An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	155	80
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	24	35

All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: first-winter at Llandegfedd Res. on 12 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: second calendar-year at Llantwit Major on 15 Mar.; second calendar-year at Cardiff Bay on 11-20 Apr., also at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 23 Apr.; PEMBROKE: two first-winters at Wiseman's Bridge on 2 Jan.; at Llys y fran Res. on 16-31 Jan. with two here on 31st; one at Penberri Res. on 23 Mar.; one at Newport on 9 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: on the Teifi estuary, a first-winter on 14 and 18 Jan., a very white immature here on 29-30 Jan., second-winter on 31 Jan., 13, 15, 18 and 22 Mar., one on 10 Feb.; a first-winter on 22-23 Mar., a second-winter on 4-6 Apr. and a first-winter on 7-8 Apr.; CEREDIGION: first-winter at New Quay on 19 Jan.; first-winter at Clarach on 27 Jan., second-winter at Llangrannog on 25 Mar.; at Llanrhystud on 2-3 Apr.; at New Quay on 3 April; second-winter at Aberystwyth on 8 Apr.; first-winter at Llanrhystud on 2 May; first-summer at Aberystwyth on 13 May; CAERNARFON: one at Rhos-on-sea on 6 Mar. (also in DENBIGH); adult on Bardsey on 23 Mar.; at Morfa Nefyn on 3 May; sub-adult at Aber Ogwen on 23 May; ANGLESEY: first-winter near Porth Dafarch, Holyhead, from 16 Jan. to 5 Apr.; Cemlyn on 25 May; DENBIGH: at Kinmel Bay from 28 Feb. to 5 Mar.; at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 6 Mar.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus***GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD**

(A) *An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in winter but occasionally in summer.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	78	64
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	36	25

All single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: second calendar-year at The Knap Lake, Barry, from 27 Jan. to 18 Feb., also seen at Aberthaw on 22 Feb. and then Cardiff Bay on 26-27 Feb.; first calendar-year in gull roost at Cardiff

Bay on 31 Dec.; GOWER: Crymlyn Burrows on 31 Mar.; Swansea Vale on 22 Apr.; CARMARTHEN: Sandy Water Park on 1 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Pembroke Dock on 2 Jan.; Amroth on 4 Jan.; Newgale on 16 Feb.; Llanstadwell on 3 Mar.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: second calendar-year on the Teifi estuary on 10 Feb.; CEREDIGION: first-winter at Tanybwllch and then Aberystwyth on 3 Mar.; first-winter at New Quay on 3 Mar.; CAERNARFON: first-winter on Bardsey on 10 Feb. and another on 5 Apr.; ANGLESEY: one at Aberlleinog on 21 Feb.; one flew south at The Range on 5 Apr.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus***GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF**

(C) *Common and widespread in coastal areas in winter, widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2943	3187
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	16%
No of 1km squares	646	680

Breeding: GWENT: colony on Denny Island thought to be stable: 30 near-fledged juveniles on 18 June, 17 of which were ringed; E.GLAMORGAN: at least one pair bred on Flat Holm; GOWER: single pairs bred at Port Talbot docks and The Quays, Britton

Ferry; PEMBROKE: eight AON on Caldey (cf. 6 AON in 2015 and the same in 2014); two AON on the Castlemartin peninsula (no change from 2015); 93 AON on Skokholm was a 12% increase on 2015 and the most yet recorded on the island. Productivity was estimated to be 1.38 fledged young per monitored pair, 16.9% down on 2015, but 21.1% higher than the 2006-2015 mean; 108 AON on Skomer was 13% down on 2015. Productivity of 1.44 chicks per AON was down by 12% on last year; bred on Grassholm and Ramsey but no counts made; CEREDIGION: small breeding colony on Cardigan Island and scattered pairs along the coast but no breeding counts were carried out; MEIRIONNYDD: no indications of any breeding; CAERNARFON: four AON on Bardsey, the lowest since 2011 (though prior to 2007 four pairs had not bred since 1973). Four juveniles known to have fledged; visits to Ynys Gwylan Fawr recorded 70 nest platforms and 55 large juveniles, with a further two nests on Ynys Gwylan Bach: combined total of 72 pairs is 21.7% lower than last year's record number, but 38.1% above the 2007-2016 mean. The Ynys Gwylan Fawr productivity of 0.79 is the highest for a few years, though 17.7% below the 2007-2016 mean; three nests at St Tudwal's Island East and 17 at St Tudwal's Island West: total of 20 nests is a considerable decline from 34 nests in 2014 (JNCC); ANGLESEY: two pairs resident at Cemlyn; attempted to breed at Llyn Maelog; three AON at RSPB Valley Wetlands; six AON at RSPB South and North Stacks; 30 breeding adults on Puffin Island on 23 June; DENBIGH: probably bred at Llyn Brenig.

Non-breeding: following a few poor years recently, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has seen a recovery, almost to its turn-of-the-century high.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	11	2	10								33	25
GOWER												
Weobley	1	45	5	1			5	9	47	34	20	
Blackpill	12	14	13	16	27	95	13	70	20	25	12	7
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	24	17	18						49	44	9	9
Skokholm (roosting)								128	247	175	44	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	3	3	1	2	15	1	5	45	46	5	4
Morfa Nefyn				1	2	2	30	2	6	5		
Bardsey	4	9	14	11	17	12	16	73	27	44	14	9
FLINT												
RSPB Point of Ayr								34		32	40	
Gronant	85					30			40			

Other counts (30+): GOWER: 30 at Llanrhidian on 30 Aug.; 33 at The Goose on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 40 at Wiseman’s Bridge on 2 Jan.; 100 at Marloes on 28 July; 150 at the Gann on 1 Sept.; 76 at Pwll Deri-Strumble on 19 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 off Aberdyfi on 5 Nov.; DENBIGH: 30+ at Llanddulas on 1 Jan.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

(C) Common resident in most towns and on some sea cliffs. Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	2732	3053	The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 49% higher than in 1995 and has shown an upward spurt in the last couple of years.
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	17%	
No of 1km squares	462	470	
			Large counts (100+): E.GLAMORGAN: 100 in Victoria Park, Cardiff, on 3 Apr. and 153 here on 30 May; GOWER: 105 at Brynmill Park on 21 Sept.; 100+ in Neath town centre and 160-200 in Port Talbot throughout the year; CAERNARFON: c.100 in Llandudno on 15 Sept.; FLINT: 127 near the R. Clwyd on 22 May.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

(C) Breeding resident occurring widely but not numerous, most common in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	617	628	The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 88% higher than in 1995, though has dropped back in the last couple of years (by 15% between 2015 and 2016).
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%	
No of 1km squares	279	246	

Breeding: GWENT: at Llanrothal, Lydart and Hafodryns; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Bonvilston, Coed Pwll-y-flew and St. Mellons, and possibly at a further seven locations in the southern half of the recording area; GOWER: bred at Margam Park and possibly at another three sites; PEMBROKE: breeding season records from nine sites; CEREDIGION: breeding season records from five sites; BRECON: 34 territories; CAERNARFON: breeding season records at nine sites; DENBIGH: probable bred at three sites; FLINT: bred at Shotton Paper Mill (nestlings ringed) and probably at Pontblyddyn and Gronant.

Large counts (15+): GWENT: high counts at Peterstone Wentlooge through Sept. (max. 44 on 17th), then 157 here on 1 Oct. and counts of 15+ on several other dates including 75 on 21 Oct.; 20 at Pen-ylan on 29 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 64 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (Maesteg) on 7 Mar.; 27 at Mynydd Baeden (Maesteg) on 18 Feb. and 51 here on 11 Mar.; 44 at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct.; 22 at Peterston-super-Ely on 23 Oct.; 21 at Kenfig National Nature Reserve on 7 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 175 at New Shipping Point on 5 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Dolrychain on 12 Apr.; BRECON: 45 at Pennorth on 12 Aug.; 60 at Bronllys on 23 Sept.; 118 in Brecon on 19 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 120 at Aberhafesp on 17 Jan.; DENBIGH: 20+ at Cloy Hall near Bangor-is-y-Coed on 29 May; FLINT: 38 at Connah's Quay NR on 31 Jan.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

(C) Abundant breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	9341	10488
% of BirdTrack lists	57%	57%
No of 1km squares	1716	1632

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 26% higher than 1995 but has fallen since 2010, and by 13% in just the previous 12 months.

A sizeable migration movement was witnessed in southeast Wales in late October/early November, but not noted elsewhere in Wales. Two of the counts from East Glamorgan are the highest ever recorded in the vice-county.

Large flocks (300+): GWENT: 350 birds near Osbaston, in Feb. and early March; 500 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22 Oct.; 3550 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 27 Oct.; 15,968 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 28 Oct. and 73,439 on 2 Nov., the same day that 5000 were recorded at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), then 14,832 here on 3rd, 13,148 on 5th, 50,675 on 6th, 17,123 on 7th and 1009 on 8th; E.GLAMORGAN: the 20 largest counts of the year, reflecting migration movement, occurred from 24 Oct. to 11 Nov.: max. counts were 130,000 at Grangemoor Park and 17,000 at Canton, Cardiff, on 2 Nov.; 42,000 at Canton, 36,000 at Cardiff Barrage North and 13,850 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 6 Nov.; 13,000 at Canton on 7 Nov.; GOWER: 4000 west at Middleton/Pitton on 30 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 360 over Skomer on 13 Nov. and 725 here on 23 Nov.; BRECON: 1000+ on oilseed rape stubble in Pennorth on 12 Aug.; 1500 over Pennorth in 20 minutes on 2 Nov.; 750 on spring barley stubble at Lower Cathedine on 3 Nov.; 500 at Blaen Llynfi (Bwlch), also on spring barley stubble, on 26 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 600+ in the Coed Bedw/Coed yr Arw area on 29 Nov.; 400+ at Llanfairfechan on 19 Dec.; c.5000 roosting at Conwy on 12 Dec. was a new vice-county record, with c.780 here on 19 Dec.; DENBIGH: c.2500 near Wrexham on 9 Feb.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

(C) A widespread and common resident, having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3214	3032
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	16%
No of 1km squares	665	664

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 21% higher than in 1995, but dropped 6% between 2015 and 2016.

Counts of 25+: DENBIGH: 50 at Rhuthun WTW on 7 Nov.; FLINT: 75 roosted on Ynys Farm rooftop near Rhyl on 9 Dec.; 30 reported in a St. Asaph garden on 10 Jan.

TURTUR DORCHOG

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

(B) extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	9	19
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	7	14

A few more records than in the last few years, but it remains a dire outlook for this former breeding species. All records were single birds: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12 May; GOWER: Fairwood Common on 9 June;

CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 24-29 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 4 and 28 May, and on 5 June; St David's Head on 9-10 May; on Ramsey on 10-11 May; BRECON: Maes-y-ffynnon, Brecon, on 28 Aug., the first vice-county record since 2006; MEIRIONNYDD: Talsarnau on 7 May; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey on 9 and 22 May; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 20 May.

TURTUR

Cuckoo (Tony Pope)



CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus***COG**

(C) Formerly a locally common breeding summer visitor to all counties but appears to be declining and far from common; also recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	564	535
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%
No of 1km squares	342	343

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales showed a 16% decline between 2015 and 2016 but the trend remains higher than at the start of this decade.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	12 April	Wentwood	25 June	Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)
E.GLAMORGAN	15 April	Rudry Common	26 July	Pant Norton
GOWER	14 April	Mynydd Rhiwgregen	26 June	Tennant Canal and Crymlyn Bog
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Pâl y Cwrt	18 June	Nantycaws Recycling Centre
PEMBROKE	21 April	Rosebush		
CEREDIGION	14 April	Cross Inn forest	15 July	Croeslan
BRECON	17 April	Buckland Hill (Bwlch)		
RADNOR	12 April	Llanbwchllyn		
MONTGOMERY	20 April	Cors Dyfi		
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April	Llan Ffestiniog	14 June	Ynysfor
CAERNARFON	20 April	Cwm Eigiau	6 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 April	Rhosneigr	26 Aug.	Penysarn
DENBIGH	11 April	RSPB Conwy	6 Aug.	Rhydtalog
FLINT	15 April	Cilcain	30 May	Penycloddiau

GWENT: 1-4 birds, including calling males, at six sites. Despite birds in suitable habitat, breeding was not confirmed; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but males were seen or heard calling at approximately 35 locations in May and June, 27% fewer than in 2015; juvenile at Pant Norton on 26 July; GOWER: probably bred at Crymlyn Bog and Lliw Reservoirs; singles at a further 35 localities.; CARMARTHEN: recorded at 12 sites, max. counts three at Gweunydd Cochion and five at Pâl y Cwrt but no confirmed breeding; PEMBROKE: recorded from 14 1km squares; CEREDIGION: records from 33 sites (cf. 49 in 2015); BRECON: seen at 13 sites. Breeding was confirmed in a Meadow Pipit nest on Llandefalle Hill on 6 June but the nest was subsequently predated; a recently-fledged juvenile was in Llanwrthwl from 3-9 July; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 24 sites. Breeding attempted at Coed Cefn Hir, Penrhyndeudraeth, on 30 May trying in vain to lay an egg in the nest of a Great Spotted Woodpecker; CAERNARFON: recorded at 47 sites; juvenile near Bwlch-y-ddeufaen in the Carneddau on 6 July was being fed by a Meadow Pipit; juvenile on Bardsey on 4-25 July thought to have hatched on the island, the third consecutive year of successful breeding on the island since records began; ANGLESEY: seen at six sites; juveniles at Point Lynas on 8 Aug. and Penysarn on 26 Aug.; DENBIGH: 5+ seen in the World's End area on 27 May; male and hepatic female together at Llyn Brân with another male singing nearby on 20 May; FLINT: six of nine reports in 2016 were from the Clwydian range.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

TYLLUAN WEN

(C) A breeding resident in all counties. The population may be stable in the long term in many counties, but numbers are still considerably reduced in some areas following a run of cold winters. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	152	227
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	105	104

further two; breeding confirmed at Bargoed where a pair raised three young; GOWER: recorded at 17 sites, all singles bar two at Margam railway yards and Seven Sisters; CARMARTHEN: recorded at six sites; PEMBROKE: reported from only 13 locations, possibly breeding at one; CEREDIGION: reported from only a few sites with only a few breeding season records; BRECON: singles recorded at 15 sites; confirmed breeding at Llywel and Talgarth; MONTGOMERY: 32 successful breeding pairs produced 87 chicks; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 17 locations, including on Cadair Idris, at 4-500ft altitude; probable territory on the Mawddach estuary and possibly one at Ynysfor; CAERNARFON: breeding season records from eight sites including a pair at Hafod Lane, Bangor, that failed at the egg stage; probable breeding in Coed Gwydyr north of Trefriw; ANGLESEY: recorded at 12 sites including confirmed breeding at Cors Goch and RSPB Cors Ddyga, and probably at Cors Bodeilio; DENBIGH: at least 11 breeding pairs, and probably another; singles at two other sites; FLINT: two pairs confirmed, with singles at three other sites.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

(C) Locally common breeding resident in some eastern counties, scarcer and probably decreasing in the west. Records have been fewer in many counties in recent years, and it has been suggested that the species is now more nocturnal than previously.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	59	77
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	40	28

GWENT: breeding confirmed near Llandegfedd village; singles at five other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: seen at seven locations but reports down 40% on 2015, and no confirmed breeding reports; PEMBROKE: recorded only on the islands, with a breeding pair on Skomer; BRECON: recorded only at Cradoc; MONTGOMERY: pair at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Bron y Aur, Dyfi Forest, on 6 May, was the first vice-county record since 2014; CAERNARFON: seven territories on Bardsey (two more than last year and the highest since 1989), at least four fledging young; only mainland records came from Rhiw and Lôn Las; ANGLESEY: singles recorded at six sites; three at Cemlyn; pair bred near Llanfaelog; DENBIGH: all 16 records were from the outskirts of Wrexham: nine from Holt and others at Marchford, Rossett, Sutton Green and Commonwood; a used nest was found at Tallarn Green; FLINT: three together at Rhydymwyn in Aug. may have been a family party; singles at Penycloddiau and Buckley.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco***TYLLUAN FRECH**

(C) A common and widespread breeding resident in areas of woodland in all counties but possibly declining. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	391	449
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	207	216

Breeding records and significant counts: GWENT: bred at four locations, three in artificial sites, and suspected to have bred at a further seven; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Penrhiwfer, Michaelston-le-Pit and Dunraven; an immature was reported at

Llanbethery on 26 June and breeding was reported as possible at Shwt; GOWER: probably bred at Craig Cefn Parc; CARMARTHEN: records from Penclacwydd and Llidi; PEMBROKE: recorded in 16 1km squares, with breeding evidence from 3-4 of these; BRECON: bred in nestboxes at The Cwm (Llanwrthwl) and Llangasty; two owlets seen Defynnog, Glasbury and Cathedine, and wheezing young heard at Builth Wells and in Pennorth; MONTGOMERY: a wet winter and spring resulted in birds being unfit to breed; just one young fledged at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (cf. 18 in 2015); MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Groeslwyd; probably bred at Waen yr Hydd; breeding possible at another four sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Rowen; two pairs heard at Hafod Lane, Bangor, and 1-2 birds at a number of sites; ANGLESEY: pair regularly called at Wern-y-Wylan; two males and a female at Church Island in Nov.; singles at six other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Prion, Pentrefelin and Rhos-y-Brithdir; a bird flew from a nestbox in Clocaenog Forest on 20 April but the box was empty; FLINT: highest count was three at Rhydymwyn on 29 Oct.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus***TYLLUAN GORNIOG**

(B) A scarce resident in some counties. Also a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	12	9
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	9	6

GWENT: at least four territories in the north of the vice-county, with two chicks ringed in June; PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 25 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Gallt y Carw, Llanfachreth, on 30 July; CAERNARFON: all records from Bardsey;

one in the Heligoland trap on 31 Mar., one roosted on 17-28 Aug. (ringed on 21st) and singles on 1, 6, 7 and 15 Oct.; FLINT: one at Flint on 17 Jan.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus***TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG**

(C) Scarce breeding resident. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	220	243
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	107	101

Breeding: PEMBROKE: two nests on Skomer, fledging 12 chicks; CAERNARFON: one on the Migneint on 16 Aug. in potential breeding habitat; ANGLESEY: breeding possible on The Range, where two were seen regularly on 9-22 May, one seen

carrying food.

Approximate monthly totals (excluding breeding records above) where available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	5	3	2		2							
E.GLAMORGAN	14	4	4	3	1					2	3	5
GOWER	10	1	4	1	1	1						
CARMARTHEN	2	2	4	1	1					2	1	
PEMBROKE				1	2					9	9	1
CEREDIGION	1	2		2	1					2		
BRECON	5	2	2	1	2			1		1		
MONTGOMERY	1											
MEIRIONNYDD	3	3			1			1		1		
CAERNARFON			1	1	3					4		
ANGLESEY	3	2	1	1	2	2						
DENBIGH		1	3	5								
FLINT	1				3	1					1	1

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

(A) Widespread but scarce summer visitor, now mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	62	56
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	39	39

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known. Records were received as follows:

GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in daylight on 5 May; one at Wentwood on 7 May, and three males on 4 June; up to four, including two churring males, at Broad Meend near Trellech on 2 June; five, including three churring males, at Coed y Llanerch on 8 June; churring heard in clear fell on Trellech Common on 21 June; two, possibly three, males wing-clapping and displaying at Beacon Hill, Trellech, on 23 June and 7 July, and a nest with a one-week old chick subsequently found nearby; wing-clapping male on the Blorenge and at St James Forestry on 23 July; E.GLAMORGAN: one calling at Coed Craig Ruperra on 24 May; two pairs at Caerau, Maesteg, on 30 May; churring male at Graig Gethin on 30 May; two males at Mynydd Merthyr on 30 May; up to four birds at Llanwonno, with female on nest with two eggs on 11 Aug.; pair foraging at Blaencanaid Forest on 2 June; churring male at Llantwit Major on 5 June; churring male at Darwonno Forest on 8 June; churring male at Garn Wen (West), Maesteg, on 15 June; GOWER: probably bred at Glyncorrwg, Tonmawr and Pelenna Forest; two at Craig yr Aber and Cwm Cynfig on 9 May; three churring males on Mynydd Dinas on 27 May; male in Margam Forest on 28 May; male at Ergyd Uchaf on 28 May; three males near Drysiog on 3 June; male at Mynydd Emroch on 10 June; male at Twy'n Gwyn and male at Tonmawr on 11 June; pair at Glyncorrwg plus a second male nearby on 24 June; male at Llyn Fach on 8 July; two males and a female at Mynydd Marchywel on 27 June; CARMARTHEN: churring male in a conifer plantation north of Cwmdud on 24 May and a displaying male with a female here on 31 May; PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 15 May; CEREDIGION: up to four churring males at Cross Inn forest; pair at Bryn Moel; male at Bryn Coch; one at RSPB Ynys-hir; one found dead on the main road at Furnace on 6 Aug.; BRECON: one churring in the Castle Drake area of Glasfynydd Forest on 1 June; MONTGOMERY: only record from RSPB Lake Vyrnwy;

MEIRIONNYDD: two at Y Garth, Pont Briwet, on 30 May; four on northern edge of Ceiriog forest on 2 June, with a churring male here on 12 July; churring heard at Coed y Garth, Mawddach, on 5 June; at Gwaith Powdwr on 25 June; the Dwyryd Estuary on 29 June; CAERNARFON: up to six at Cors Bodgynydd between 29 May and 17 June; DENBIGH: 10 males and a female at Vivod in the Berwyns on 9 June; eight in Coed Llandegla on 14 July; nest with eggs and two adults in Clocaenog Forest on 15 July; birds present at Moel Famau.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

(C) A widespread and plentiful summer visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1506	1511
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%
No of 1km squares	592	546

Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. More complete recording of breeding locations would help with the local protection of the species,

and grants from the Welsh Ornithological Society have supported such projects in Cardiff and North Wales. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline (-59%) since recording began in the mid 1990s.

Breeding; GWENT: two AON at Abernant; seven AON at St. John's Church, Newport; three AON at Bethel Temple, Newport; AONs at Bedwas school; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Bargoed, Bridgend (four sites) and Caerau (Maesteg); probably bred at Bridgend and Mynydd Bach (Maesteg); GOWER: bred at Giants Grave, Briton Ferry, Neath Town Centre, Cwmavon, Aberavon and Tonna Hospital; CARMARTHEN: two nests monitored in Cynghordy reared two and one young; CEREDIGION: 5-6 pairs at Talybont, with a few pairs in Bow Street, Eglwysfach and other small colonies in the larger towns of the vice-county; BRECON: breeding probable at Brecon Town centre, the Barracks, Penycae, Libanus, Beulah, Pennorth Chapel, Crickhowell, Honey Cafe (Bronllys), Sennybridge, Defynnog, Abergwesyn School, and Pentwyn Farm; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs at Penmaendyfi Chalet Cwrt; 15 at Dolgellau on church tower and building walls; at least one nest in Tywyn Leisure Centre; CAERNARFON: all four artificial nest holes on a house in Trefriw occupied and fledged young; bred in Bangor, Faenol, Rachub, Llanberis, Waunfawr, Rowen, at Bodlondeb and the tourist information centre in Conwy, at Penygroes, Talysarn and Llanllyfni, and Y Faenol; probably bred in Penrhynside, Craig y Don, Llandudno and at Waunfawr; ANGLESEY: bred in Menai Bridge (two sites), Llangefni and Brynsiencyn; DENBIGH: bred near Fenn's Bank and at Penycae.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	21 April	Monmouth and Newport	31 Aug.	Ebbw Vale
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Cardiff Bay	5 Sept.	Taffs Well
GOWER	21 April	Swansea Vale	14 Aug.	Swansea Vale and Llansamlet
CARMARTHEN	27 April	Penclacwydd	16 Aug.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	19 April	Skomer	26 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	25 April	Rhydl Lewis	22 Aug.	Ynyslas
BRECON	22 April	Libanus Church	22 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	24 April	Cors Dyfi		
MEIRIONNYDD	4 May	Penrhyndeudraeth	13 Aug.	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	29 April	on Bardsey	27 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	29 April	Llyn Traffwll	20 Aug.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	17 April	RSPB Conwy	23 Aug.	near Ruabon
FLINT	29 April	Rhyl brickworks	15 Aug.	Rhuddlan

Large counts (80+): GWENT: 260+ at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 27 May; 300 over Mynydd Maen on 7 July; 152 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 9 July; 100 in the Monnow Valley on 22 July; 89 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 23 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Lavernock Point on 4 July; 250 at Cardiff Bay on 28 July; 100 at Bridgend on 16 Aug.; GOWER: c.150 over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 1 May; 90 at Staffel Haegr on 1 July; MONTGOMERY: 150-200 over Gorn Hill on 2 July; DENBIGH: 200 at RSPB Conwy on 30 Apr.; FLINT: 150 at Bagillt on 9 July.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

COPOG

(A) *An uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	25	27
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	12	8

All records are single birds: GWENT: Llanfrehfa on 14-16 May; CARMARTHEN: at Llandybïe church on 27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Broad Haven South on 13 May; Skokholm on 19 April and 14-17 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Waunfawr near Aberystwyth in mid-Sept.; MONTGOMERY: near Foel on 7-8 May; CAERNARFON: Morfa Bychan on 20 May; DENBIGH: Afonwen on 15 Apr.; RSPB Conwy on 25-26 Oct. (taken by a Peregrine).

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

(C) *Resident in lowland areas. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	965	1010
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%
No of 1km squares	273	285

Breeding: GWENT: confirmed or suspected on the R. Usk, on the R. Ebbw near Lower Ochrywth, on the Monmouth-Brecon Canal near Rogerstone and near Monmouth; pairs seen in Monmouth, Skenfrith, Abergavenny, Michaelston-y-fedw and St Brides Wentlooge; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Cosmeston Lakes CP, on the rivers Ogmore and Ewenny, and at Caerphilly Castle; GOWER: bred at Rhyslyn; PEMBROKE: pair reared two young at Llanychaer; CEREDIGION: only breeding season record was in the Rheidol valley in July; BRECON: breeding confirmed on R.Usk at Brecon Promenade and Brynich, and the R.Wye at Hay Bridge; probably bred on the R.Dulas at Llanwrthwl, the R.Wye at Brynwyn and Ffordd Fawr, and the R.Usk at Brecon, Pencelli and Llansantffraed, and at Llangorse; MEIRIONNYDD: bred between Pont Croesor, Ynysfor and Nantmor, and also at Bronturnor Mawr, Tan y Bwlch and Maentwrog; ANGLESEY: recorded during the breeding season on the Cefni near Llangefni and RSPB Cors Ddyga; probably bred on the Alaw estuary where a pair was seen carrying food; DENBIGH: breeding season records from RSPB Conwy, Erddig, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Trevalyn Meadows, Rhewl and Bodnant; FLINT: breeding season records from the R. Cwyd (Rhyl-Rhuddlan), Rhydymwyn and Fagl Lane GP.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

PENGAM

(A) *An uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	28	119
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	12	32

All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: near Porton House on 30 Aug.; at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 9-16 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Pant Norton, Ogmore, on

28 Aug. and another here on 19 Sept.; Grangetown, Cardiff, on 8 Sept.; Dunraven on 12-16 Sept.; Trwyn-y-Witch on 18 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Penrhyngwyn on 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE: St David's Head on 24-25 Aug.; Skokholm on 15-17 Sept.; Rosson Farm, St David's, on 15 Oct.; at least seven birds on Skomer: 28 Aug., up to two during 29 Aug.-17 Sept.; 22 Sept.; three on 23 Sept. with one remaining until 24th; a new bird from 27 Sept. to 2 Oct.; 5 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Morfa Bychan on 10 Sept.; RADNOR: Abbeycwmhir on 16 Sept.; CAERNARFON: at least 22 on Bardsey: 14 Apr., 16 May (singing), two on 25 Aug. with one the next day, on 10 Sept, four on 14 Sept., a different three on 15th, then singles on 17, 19 and 20 Sept., three on 22nd, singles on 25, 27 and 28 Sept., two on 2 Oct. and one on 4th; the only mainland record was at Uwchmynydd on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 10-17 Sept.; FLINT: in a Mold garden on 2 May.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

(C) Once a common breeding resident throughout lowland Wales except on Anglesey. It now appears to be doing well in some eastern and southern counties but declining in most western counties, and Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1116	1070
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%
No of 1km squares	343	306

Following a fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales during 2006-14, the last two summers have shown something of a recovery, but the trend remains 20% below its 1995 level.

GWENT: relatively common: juveniles at Penallt, Hafod Farm, Mathern Oaze, and near Osbaston (at least three); breeding suspected at Llanhennock and at Ynysfro Reservoirs; E.GLAMORGAN: relatively common: bred at Bonvilston, Caerlan Farm (Penrhiwfer), Tranch Pyle limeworks and Cosmeston Lakes CP; probably bred at Bargoed, Forest Farm and Parc Penallta; GOWER: bred at Incline Briton Ferry and Crymlyn Bog; probably bred at Margam Park, Cwm Dyffryn, Gifach Woods and Shelone Woods; CARMARTHEN: recorded at eight sites; PEMBROKE: singles at Teifi Marshes on 31 Jan., Tycanol Wood from 20 Mar. to 5 Apr., and at Manor House Park on 29 July; CEREDIGION: singles at Nanteos pool, Lampeter, Allt Y Graig Aberaeron, Cross Inn forest and two at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: relatively common: bred at Craig Llyn (Llanwrthwl), Llanwrthwl village, Defynnog, Llangorse village, Allt-yr-Esgair, Bwlch, Dyffryn Crawnon, Glangrwyney and Sennybridge MOD Camp; MONTGOMERY: a few records, mostly from the east of the vice-county; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Cefn Hir, Penrhyndeudraeth; seen frequently at Ynysfor/Pont Croesor, at Gwaith Powdwr, and at Glyndyfrdwy in the breeding season; CAERNARFON: no confirmed breeding records but seen during the breeding season at 18 sites; DENBIGH: bred at Alyn Waters CP near Wrexham; also recorded in the breeding season at Fenn's Moss and Erddig; FLINT: recorded regularly at Rhydymwyn from May to Nov.; juvenile at Connah's Quay NR in Aug.-Sept.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

(C) A common breeding resident in wooded parts of Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2857	2881
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	14%
No of 1km squares	916	858

Following a sustained growth in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in the 15 years to 2010, the population has levelled off in recent years, birds presumably having filled most of the suitable habitat available, though they remain scarcer on

Anglesey and the Llŷn peninsula.

Summary of reports: GWENT: common across the vice-county; E.GLAMORGAN: common in the vice-county, including one on Flat Holm Island; GOWER: widespread across the recording area; CARMARTHEN: three pairs bred at Penclacwydd and breeding confirmed at Pontiets, Capel Seion and Llanedi; PEMBROKE: recorded in 66 1km squares, with breeding evidence from at least nine; BRECON: widespread across the vice-county; a male that habitually drums on a plastic junction box on a Pennorth telegraph pole did not start until 4 March, some six weeks after 2015; MONTGOMERY: widespread and common; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records from 24 sites and proven at four; CAERNARFON: widespread breeding records; ANGLESEY: singles at 17 locations, two at Cemaes Bay on 24 Oct.; DENBIGH: nested across the vice-county; FLINT: only two nests recorded; highest count was nine at Afonwen on 18 June.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

(A) A scarce and local breeding resident in all counties, principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	35	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	25	12

GWENT: seen at five locations, none the same as 2015 suggesting more birds in the vice-county than reports indicate; one drummed in a Llandeud garden from mid-April to May; E.GLAMORGAN: female at Fforestganol on 25 Feb. and male here on 25 Apr.; pair at Brynna Woods on 21 Mar.; one at Coed Parc-y-Van, Caerphilly, on 23 Nov.; GOWER: at Ynys Lee on 15 June; at Kittle Hill Lane on 29 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: two at Derwen Fawr, Llandybïe, on 13 Mar.; one at Dinefwr Park on 26 Aug.; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir in March and April and birds occasionally seen during the winter; singles at Nanteos pool on 1 Apr., Allt Iau Las on 25 Apr. and Llanerchaeron on 8 May; BRECON: one at Cnwch Farm (Elan) on 4 June; MONTGOMERY: one at Powis Castle on 25 Jan. and 6 Mar.; one at Dolydd Hafren on 17-19 Apr., then two (male and a juvenile) on 7 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Garth Common, Brithdir, on 1 May; one, possibly two, at Ynysfor/Pont Croesor with 13 sightings during April-July, also straying into CAERNARFON; DENBIGH: one in the Rhosllanerchrugog/Penycae area on 13-16 Jan. and 11 Apr.; one in the Dulas Valley on 20 Apr. and near Betws-y-Coed on the same day; possible pair at Bodelwyddan Castle on 30 Mar.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

(C) Rather scarce breeding resident throughout Wales. Partial and passage migrant in small numbers to some counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1761	1363
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	6%
No of 1km squares	763	612

A notable drop in the number of records entered into BirdTrack and the frequency of its inclusion on lists.

Incomplete breeding information includes: GWENT: one pair bred, although juveniles seen at four other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but juveniles at two sites; GOWER: bred at Taibach, Nicholaston Burrows and Llangennith and probably bred at Minor Point; juveniles at Frog Moor on 22 July and at Margam Burrows on 13 Aug. CARMARTHEN: only one report during the breeding season; PEMBROKE: suspected breeding at five locations; CEREDIGION: bred at five inland and one coastal site; BRECON: two confirmed breeding pairs, with pairs probably breeding at another four locations; MEIRIONNYDD: reported at 15 sites during the breeding season; CAERNARFON: bred at two sites and



Kestrel (Bob Haycock)

suspected at a further three; ANGLESEY: at three sites during the breeding season; DENBIGH: one pair bred; FLINT: one pair bred.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

(B) Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	213	194
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	138	119

Breeding records: BRECON: four breeding territories but at none of these was breeding suspected; MONTGOMERY: 1-2 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy but did not breed, and probably did not elsewhere in the vice-county; MEIRIONNYDD: five

pairs monitored, of which only one pair laid eggs and fledged four young; CAERNARFON: possibly bred at four sites.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	3	3	2	4	1	1		1	3	2	1	3
E.GLAMORGAN	4	1	1	2	4		1			6	3	
GOWER	3		4							5	3	3
CARMARTHEN	13	1	1				10					
PEMBROKE	4	4	8	5				1	2	3	3	4
CEREDIGION	3	5	2	2	1				4	6	4	4
BRECON			2	1					reported from 7 locations			
MEIRIONNYDD	4	1					1	2		4+	2	
CAERNARFON	3	1	1							4	2	1
Bardsey	1	1	1	1	1			1		3	2	2
ANGLESEY	3		2		1				1	1	1	
DENBIGH		1	1	1	1	1		1				
FLINT	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

(B) Rare breeding summer visitor in at least six counties with a total breeding population of approximately 30 pairs. Elsewhere a rare passage migrant, although a few summer on occasion. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding information:
No of BirdTrack records	106	103	GWENT: five nests monitored, each fledged three young;
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%	E.GLAMORGAN: one nest, and at several other sites during the breeding season; CARMARTHEN: thought to have bred in the Tywi valley; BRECON:
No of 1km squares	76	73	pair bred, and individuals in suitable breeding habitat in nine other locations; MONTGOMERY: ‘a handful’ of pairs probably bred; DENBIGH: two nests.

pair bred, and individuals in suitable breeding habitat in nine other locations; MONTGOMERY: ‘a handful’ of pairs probably bred; DENBIGH: two nests.

Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT	4	6+	2	2	1	2	2
E.GLAMORGAN	2	1			4	5	4
GOWER						1	1
CARMARTHEN		1	1			1	
PEMBROKE		1		1	2		1
CEREDIGION		2	1	3	6		1
BRECON	1	4	1	1	1	1	
MONTGOMERY							
MEIRIONNYDD		2	2		1	1	
CAERNARFON				1	1		
Bardsey			1			1	
ANGLESEY				1	1		
DENBIGH	1	1				1	
FLINT		1		1	2	1	

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus***HEBOG TRAMOR**

(C) Resident breeding species in all counties, but breeding population declined 12% between 2002 and 2014 to 249 pairs following a period of recovery since the 1960s. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1037	916
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%
No of 1km squares	478	425

Breeding information as follows (not complete surveys): GWENT: one nest and territories at five other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 occupied territories monitored in the southern part of the recording area, of which nine were successful fledging 16

young; breeding attempted in at least one other territory; at least three other pairs fledged chicks; PEMBROKE: at least 40 occupied territories, at which 32 pairs attempted to breed, producing a minimum of 31 young; BRECON: of 20 sites checked by the South Wales Peregrine Monitoring group, 10 were occupied (nine pairs and a single male) and at least seven young fledged. The poor productivity extends concerns about a lack of suitable medium-sized prey; one quarry suffered the loss of a female in suspicious circumstances; CAERNARFON: two pairs attempted to breed on Bardsey, but both failed; reported to have bred at several mainland sites; DENBIGH: one nest.

Ringling: some "new blood" in the PEMBROKE breeding population in the form of a colour-ringed bird Orange BZ, ringed as a nestling in Gloucestershire in 2011, one of a pair that successfully raised three young.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri***PARACIT TORCHOG**

(A) Naturalised population now well-established in parts of southern England and spreading northwards, but not yet established in Wales.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	20	7
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	6	6

The multiple records from Flintshire may be an indication of spread from northwest England rather than individual escapes.

CAERNARFON: two at Plas Dorothea, Talysarn, on 20 Mar.; FLINT: two at Gronant on 5 May; five at Mostyn Hall on 14 May; two west of Rhuddlan on 17 Sept.; six at Gwaenysgor on 6 Oct.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus***EURYN**

(A) A scarce summer visitor, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembrokeshire. Most records fall in May and June as is to be expected with a species overshooting its continental breeding areas. On WRP list. 29 records since 1991.

PEMBROKE: female at Marloes Mere on 6-7 May; immature male on Skokholm on 11 May; male at Dinas Cross on 6 July.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio***CIGYDD CEFNGOCH**

(A) Rare migrant, on WRP list. 73 records since 1991.

PEMBROKE: female on Skokholm on 23 May; male on Skomer on 26-27 May; juvenile on Skokholm on 23-24 Aug.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

(A) *A scarce but annual winter visitor, occasionally recorded on passage.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	174	202
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	70	56

All records relate to single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Wentwood on 20 Jan.; Mynydd Garnclochdy, between Pontypool and Blaenavon, on 27 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Garwnant and Llwyn-onn Res. from 6 Jan. to 13 Mar.; Coed Craig Ruperra on 26 Feb.; Garwnant on 21-23 Oct.; GOWER: Mynydd Penhydd on 5-28 Jan., presumed same at Cwm yr Argoed on 17 Feb.; Mynydd Marchywel on 23 Jan. and 28 Feb.; Cae'r Mynydd on 26 Nov., presumed same at Mynydd Penhydd from 28 Nov. to 28 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Cynnant from 15 Jan. to 16 Feb.; two in Brechfa Forest on 19 Jan., one remaining to 11 Feb.; Blaendud on 23 Oct. and 3 Nov.; in Brechfa Forest on 1 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Cross Inn forest from 29 Jan. to 2 May; in a garden near Llangwryfon on 30 Jan.; near Llyn Syfydrin from 14 Oct. to 13 Nov.; Cross Inn forest from 25 Oct. with two here on 5 and 6 Nov.; Bryn Moel on 2 Nov.; Llyn Pendam on 4 Nov.; Llyn Blaenmelindwr on 30 Nov. (the latter bird may be the one seen at Llyn Syfydrin); BRECON: at The Cwm/Crawnant Fawr around the margins of RSPB Carngafallt, from 3 Jan. to 18 Apr.; Castle Drake (Glasfynydd Forest) on 5 Jan.; lower Neuadd Res. (Beacons) on 6 Jan. and again on 7-25 Nov.; RADNOR: at four sites during Feb. and March, one lingering into April; MONTGOMERY: two at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 12 Feb., one here and in the adjacent Dyfnant Forest until 4 Apr.; on the Ceri Ridgeway on 26 Feb.; RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 1 and 3 Dec.; near Caersws on 16 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 8 km east of Dinas Mawddwy on 19 Feb.; Y Groes Fagl, Penllyn Forest, on 17 Apr.; DENBIGH: in the Ruabon Mountain/Llandegla/Moel Garegog area from 3 Mar. to 4 Apr.; Fenn's Moss on 25 March and from 28 Oct. to 4 Dec., with two here on 14 Nov.; Llyn Brenig from 3 Jan. to 10 Apr. and one on 15 Nov.; Clocaenog Forest from 5 Mar. to 17 Apr. and again from 23 Oct. to 27 Nov.; Mynydd Hiraethog from 29 Feb. to 26 Apr.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

CIGYDD PENGGOCH

(A) *Scarce passage migrant, on WRP list. 136 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 4-8 May; another male here on 25-26 May; ANGLESEY: male at Henborth, near Cemlyn, on 8 May; CAERNARFON: male at Uwchmynydd on 20-24 May.

CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

(C) *A resident in small numbers, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	965	868
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%
No of 1km squares	287	290

Breeding: the table below uses data supplied by Gower Ornithological Society, the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project and Bob Haycock from Pembrokeshire.

Other counts during May to Aug.: E.GLAMORGAN: six on the Heritage Coast on 8 July included an unringed pair with a juvenile; GOWER: 12 at Lewes Castle on 8 July; 20 on Worm's Head on 15 July; PEMBROKE: counts of non-breeders from Cemaes Head in the north to Penally in the south, plus the offshore islands, indicated a minimum 83 to 95 birds during the spring; CEREDIGION: few large flocks seen this year with 13 at Clarach on 29 Aug. the max. count; CAERNARFON: 25 at Coedydd Aber on 19 June; 25 at Hell's Mouth and Mynydd Cilan on 27 Aug.

	<i>Occupied territories</i>	<i>Nests</i>	<i>Nests from which young fledged</i>	<i>Min. no of young fledged</i>	<i>Young fledged/ successful nest</i>
GOWER	2	2	1	3	3
PEMBROKE	84	76	58	144	2.48
CEREDIGION		25-32	15	42	2.8
MEIRIONNYDD		19	5	8	1.6
CAERNARFON		90-93	37	104	2.8
ANGLESEY		39-41	17	56	3.3
DENBIGH		2	1	2	2

Flocks outside the breeding season: E.GLAMORGAN: seven on 10 Oct. and several counts of six on the Heritage Coast in Jan.; also between Lock's Common and Kenfig Sands during 8-23 Nov. (max. count six at Lock's Common on 8 Nov.); GOWER: seven near Mewslade on 20 Apr.; nine at Rhossili Down on 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE: minimum 116-119 birds at 11 roosts (slightly higher than 2015), max. counts were 20-23 at a location to the north of Penberri; a previously unknown roost (minimum seven birds) was found on Dinas Island; MEIRIONNYDD: nine at the Broadwater, Tywyn, on 11 Sept.; 18 at Foel Llanfendigaid, Tonfanau, on 30 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 24 at RSPB South Stack on 25 Mar., 28 here on 23 Apr.; 15 in Cemaes Bay on 22 Sept.; 21 at Newborough Warren on 15 Oct.; 10 at Morfa Dyffryn on 2 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 26 on the Little Orme on 19 Mar.; 24 at Uwchmynd on 17 Sept.; DENBIGH: 4-10 through autumn and winter months over RSPB Conwy flying from roosts on the Ormes to feed in the Conwy Valley.

Ringling: E.GLAMORGAN: one of the birds at Lock's Common in Nov. (above) was ringed as a chick in North Wales in 2016 (Stratford & Cross); this movement of 219km was twice the previous record for the species in Wales.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

PIODEN

(C) *An abundant and widespread resident; numbers still increasing. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	9182	10650
% of BirdTrack lists	56%	58%
No of 1km squares	1640	1562

Although some will tell us that Magpies are 'everywhere', they are recorded on fewer than 60% of BirdTrack lists and the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest level since recording began, 21% lower than in 1995.

The only site with comparable breeding data is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 15 pairs represents a 53% increase on the 2007-2016 mean. 13 juveniles were known to have fledged, giving a productivity figure of 0.87 young per pair, 35.1% lower than the 2007-2016 average.

Counts of 20+: GWENT: 22 around Osbaston on 1 Jan.; 22 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1 Mar., and 20 here on 21 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 33 at Heath Park, Cardiff, on 18 Jan. and 30 here on 11 May; 41 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 13 Jan.; 30 at Whitchurch on 18 Feb.; 30 at Lavernock Point on 4 Aug.; 43 at Kenfig NNR on 24 Oct. and 34 here on 28 Dec.; 51 at Whitchurch on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 31 at Llansamlet tip on 8 Jan.; 22 in Singleton Park on 4 Mar.; PEMBROKE: recorded in 100 1km squares; 45 at Teifi Marshes on 19 Jan. and 36 here on 7 Mar.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Dolydd Hafren on 7 Dec.; FLINT: 65 roosted behind Rhyll College on 6 Mar.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius***SGRECH Y COED**

(D) Widespread resident, common in most deciduous woodland areas, least so in western coastal fringes; scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2755	2532
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	13%
No of 1km squares	863	791

Fewer records to BirdTrack in 2016 perhaps reflects the 10% fall in occurrence in Breeding Bird Survey squares in 2015 following two decades of increase, and there were very few high counts during the winter.

Counts of 10+: CARMARTHEN: 15 at Pâl y Cwrt on 13 Apr.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 on 4 Aug.; 12 on 8 Aug. in a loose flock in conifers at Wenallt, Dolgellau.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula***JAC-Y-DO**

(C) An abundant and widespread resident. Increasing. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	8661	9473
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	51%
No of 1km squares	1597	1521

A slight fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index since 2015 does little to stem the long-term increasing trend, now 27% above its 1995 level.

Monthly maximum counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Pant-yr-Awel	1000	1000		500							560	3000

Other counts of 300+: GWENT: in the first winter period, 1000 at Rogerstone and at Brynmawr/Clydach Gorge; 330 at Bargoed Woodland Park, 300 at Mynydd Llwydd, and 2000 at Lliswerry during Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Bargoed on 29 May; 3000+ at Newcastle Hill on 1 Jan.; 2000 at Maesteg on 22 Jan.; 800+ at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer, in Jan. and 500+ here in Feb. and Dec.; 500 at Porthcawl on 11 Feb.; 500 at Bargoed on 13 Sept.; 500 over Whitchurch on 2 Oct.; 500 at Kenfig NNR on 21 Oct.; 1700+ at Bridgend town centre on 23 Nov.; GOWER: 452 along Mynydd Brombil on 16 Oct.; 800+ over Neath in winter; 659 at Llys Dol and Tircanol, both on 22 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: c.400 roosted at Cross Hands on 14 Jan.; c.200 at Penlan Uchaf on 16 Nov.; c.400 at Pembrey Burrows on 2 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 710 at Poppit on 28 Jan.; 700 at Marloes on 15 Dec. and 500 here on 24 Nov.; 600 at Crackwell on 26 Jan.; 500 at Lydstep on 11 Oct., 470 here on 1 Oct., 400 on 22 Jan. and 12 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 710 on the Teifi estuary on 29 Jan.; RADNOR: 600 at Llandrindod Wells on 17 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 300+ at Abergwyngregyn on 17 Dec.; 780 over Hafod Lane, Bangor, on 4 Mar.; 400+ over Penrhosgarnedd on 21 Dec. and 370+ here on 25 Dec.; ANGLESEY: c.500 roosted in Newborough Forest on 8 Dec.; FLINT: 320 at Cilcain on 18 Nov.

Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula* at Haverfordwest, PEMBROKE, on 3 Dec. and at St Asaph, DENBIGH, on 24 Dec. were accepted by the Welsh Records Panel, which queried whether the extent of white in the collar was within the normal variation for British race Jackdaws.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus***YDFRAN**

(C) A plentiful and widespread resident, breeding mainly below 300m. above sea level. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1665	1889
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%
No of 1km squares	641	650

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest point since the scheme began, 42% below its 1995 level. This is an obvious species for local bird clubs to organise counts, and well done to birders in both Gower and Brecon for doing so.

Breeding: GWENT: 98 AON at four sites (max. 54 at Whitson Court); E.GLAMORGAN: 440 AON at 22 sites (max. 65 across two sites in St Nicholas); GOWER: complete census: 626 AON at 31 sites (cf. 615 AON at 30 sites in 2015), including three new rookeries but two abandoned (max. 84 at Lagadranta Farm); CARMARTHEN: 177 AON at six sites (max. 45 at Llangunnor and Whitland); PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 13 1km squares; BRECON: counts at selected rookeries from 20 Mar. to 15 Apr. found 445 AON at 28 sites (max. 57 on the A40 at Sennybridge); MEIRIONNYDD: 18 AON at two sites counted (max. 10 at Pont-y-Bala); CAERNARFON: 57 AON at three sites (max. 30 at Coed Penychain); seven other rookeries reported.

Counts of 100+ away from rookeries: GWENT: 175 near Osbaston on 22 Feb.; 170 in a field south of Usk on 10 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Manor Farm, Porthcawl, on 18 Jan.; 400 at Marchcross Farm on 30 Sept.; 102 at Penlan Uchaf on 16 Nov.; GOWER: 100 over Llanrhidian Marsh on 10 Feb.; 150 between Rhossili and Mewslade on 31 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 250 at Sprinkle on 9 Oct.; 180 at Upper Treleddan on 6 Aug.; 170 at Lydstep on 14 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 100 at Dolydd Hafren on 9 Mar.; ANGLESEY: 250 near City Dulas on 22 Nov.; c.750 near Llanddyfnan on 25 Nov.; 500 flying to roost S. of Cors Erddreiniog on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: 120+ at Valle Crucis, Llangollen, on 29 Aug.; 120+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 23 Sept. and 200+ here on 24 Nov.; 134 and 194 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, on 10 and 11 Sept.; 200+ at Bont-y-Gwyddel on 7 Feb.; 250+ at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 11 Dec.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone***BRAN DYDDYN**

(C) An abundant resident and partial migrant throughout Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	11214	13024
% of BirdTrack lists	69%	70%
No of 1km squares	2151	2038

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been fairly steady since around 2000, though fell slightly from 2015.

Counts of 100+: E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Whitton on 13 Feb.; GOWER: counts >100 at Blackpill in Jan., June, July, Aug. and Dec. (max. 177 in July); 275 in Swansea on 17 Feb.; 118 on the Upper Loughor in June; 319 at Dalton's Point on 16 July; 200 at Staffal Haegr on 21 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 217 on mudflats off Pwll on 31 July; 161 at Kidwelly Quay on 14 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 384 on the Teifi estuary on 7 July, 156 here on 13 May and 100 on 6 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 150+ at Dolydd Hafren on 1 June; ANGLESEY: 400 at Cors Erddreiniog on 20 Nov.; FLINT: six counts >100 at Talacre, Gronant and Nannerch (max. 160 at Gronant on 23 July).

Notable record: GWENT: a 'grey morph' bird was seen at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Dec.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix***BRAN LWYD**

(A) *An irregular wanderer to Wales, mainly in winter and most frequent to coastal areas. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	38	104
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	21	38

All records were single birds: GWENT: Brynithel moorland on 11 Nov., the first vice-county record since 1992; PEMBROKE: Marloes on 7 May; Pen Anglas and St David's Head on 15 May; Pencarnan Farm, St David's, on 12 June; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas

on 28 Mar.; CAERNARFON: Gerlan, Bethesda, on 28 Jan. and 8 Dec.; around West Shore, Llandudno, and the Great Orme on 31 Mar. and from 12 Oct. to 27 Dec., another or the same on the Little Orme on 23 Oct.; Braich-y-pwll, Uwchmynydd, on 9 Oct.; Foryd on 20-26 Oct.; Bardsey on several dates in Jan., then on 15 dates from 12 Apr. to mid May, and 10-25 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Holyhead town centre from 2015 to 6 Apr.; RSPB South Stack from 31 Mar. to 18 June; Cemlyn on 19 and 20 Apr.; Alaw Estuary on 29 Apr.; on the Craig y Don Estate, Amlwch, on 6 Oct.; Llanfachraeth church from 27 Nov. to 31 Dec.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 1 Jan., 12 June and 16 July.

RAVEN *Corvus corax***CIGFRAN**

(C) *Resident: distributed throughout the whole of Wales. Numbers are very high in many of the uplands and coastal-cliff areas. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3797	3848
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	18%
No of 1km squares	1383	1291

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues to recover from a dip in the first decade of this century. It is 34% higher than its 1995 level.

Incomplete record of breeding: GWENT: bred at seven sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 sites and probable at a further eight, including two in Cardiff Bay/City centre; GOWER: bred at seven sites and probably at a further four; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 18 1km squares; two pairs fledged six young on Skokholm; MEIRIONNYDD: six confirmed nests; ANGLESEY: four nests. DENBIGH: 15 nests monitored fledged 40 young.

Roost counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Blaencanaid	95	153	60	243	344	577	505	203	114	187	146	55
ANGLESEY												
Newborough Forest											500	400

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 15 at Silent Valley NR on 5 Jan.; 15 at Mynydd Maen on 16 Sept.; 12 over Cwmyoy on 20 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 577 at Blaencanaid in June (see table above) is easily the highest ever for the vice-county; GOWER: 46 at Mynydd Marchwyl on 23 Jan., c.40 here on 15 Feb. and 38+ on 28th; 27 at Clyne Common on 24 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 35 at Brownslade Burrows on 20 Mar.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Henllan on 22 Dec.; BRECON: 24 at Cwmgu (Tretower) on 13 Jan.; 17 over the Darren (Crickhowell) on 23 Aug.; 12 at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad on 6 Oct.; 25 over Allt-yr-Esgaer on 26 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 60+ at Lake Vyrnwy on 25 Mar.; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 at Morfa Harlech on 18 Feb.; 10 in Morfa Harlech dunes area on 2 and 20 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 24 Feb.; 10 at Braich-y-pwll on 4 Oct.; 20 around Llyn Ogwen and Ffynnon Llwgwy on 7 Sept.; 26 on Bardsey on 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 11 at Silver Bay on 20 Mar.; 20 at Henborth, Cemlyn, on 19 Sept.; DENBIGH: 30+ at Llyn Aled

on 16 Feb.; 40 at Coed Tai-isaf on 26 Sept.; 55+ on Ruabon Mountain on 13 Aug.; FLINT: 11 at Nercwys Mountain on 28 Feb.; 12 at Rhuddlan on 27 Feb.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

DRYW EURBEN

(C) An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows Goldcrests making a recovery from their population crash around 2010, presumably a result of two cold winters, though the trend remains 30% below its 1995 level.
No of BirdTrack records	3422	3526	
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	18%	
No of 1km squares	996	957	

Counts of 20+: E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Bute Park North on 18 Feb.; 20 at Rudry Common on 22 Oct.; GOWER: 29 ringed at Oxwich on 20 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 28 on Skomer on 2 Oct., 23 on 8th and 31 on 9th; CAERNARFON: 25+ west of Aberdaron on 10 Oct.; 82 on Bardsey on 13 March, 154 here on 31 March, 84 on 9 Oct., 114 on 10th and 71 on 11th; DENBIGH: 50+ recorded in Coed Llandegla on 11 Oct.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

(B) A scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016	Breeding: GWENT: minimum 14 singing males in Wentwood forest, though no organised survey took place in 2016; territory held at a further three locations: one held a minimum of five singing males and three at a second; three nests were found, one was predated by Jays.
No of BirdTrack records	349	201	
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%	
No of 1km squares	108	71	

The table below summarises the monthly occurrence for each vice-county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT*			1	2								
E.GLAMORGAN	2	6	4							3+	2	2
GOWER		1	4	1						7	4	
CARMARTHEN			2		1					3		
PEMBROKE	11	2	4		3+					6		
CEREDIGION												
MONTGOMERY										1		1
MEIRIONNYDD												1
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	1	1	6	5	1	2				15		
Great Orme										2-3		
elsewhere	2	2	1							1		
ANGLESEY	3		2	2	2				1	3		
DENBIGH	2	1	1		1				1	2	2	1
FLINT	1											

* Gwent: away from the main breeding areas.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMOS LAS

(C) *An abundant resident species, most numerous in deciduous woodland but not restricted to this preferred habitat, especially in winter when it is more numerous. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	9157	9701
% of BirdTrack lists	55%	52%
No of 1km squares	1735	1626

The Breeding Bird Survey in Wales showed a further reduction compared to 2015, continuing a trend since the start of this decade; nonetheless, the index remains 11% above its 1995 level.

Breeding information for specific study areas: GWENT: a nest box scheme on seven farms recorded 81 nests fledging 271 young (success rate varied between 20% and 59%); GOWER: at Cwm Clydach 47 nests made it to the egg stage, from which 29 pairs produced 127 young (2.7 per box): a poor breeding season with more small clutches than usual, some clutches failed completely, probably due to wet, cold weather at critical periods in June; BRECON: catches by Llangorse Ringing Group during late summer and autumn were low, and confirmed the second poor breeding season in succession, with a lack of juveniles obvious; DENBIGH/FLINT: 163 nesting attempts in boxes at nine sites fledged 618 young (3.79 young/nest, cf. mean for 2004-15 of 4.23).

Of interest, in E.GLAMORGAN, 13 nests were found in Dormouse boxes at Cynllan Lodge, near Llanharan, and at Dolau.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

TITW MAWR

(C) *A widespread and numerous species throughout Wales up to approximately 500m above sea level. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	6964	6912
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	36
No of 1km squares	1549	1400

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a continued decline since 2010, but the trend is at the same level as 2004, and 36% higher than its 1995 level.

Breeding information for specific study areas: GWENT: in a nest box study on seven farms, 51 pairs fledged 190 young, an overall success rate of 46%; GOWER: at Cwm Clydach 17 nests made it to the egg stage, from which 15 pairs produced 61 young (3.6 per box): a poorer breeding season than 2015; DENBIGH/FLINT: 93 nesting attempts in boxes at nine sites fledged 396 young (4.25 young/nest, cf. mean for 2004-15 of 3.4).

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

TITW PENDDU

(C) *A widespread and fairly common resident. Most numerous in conifer woodlands. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3200	3092
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	15%
No of 1km squares	915	838

The trend for the Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales is at its lowest point since the survey started, 24% below its 1995 level.

Breeding; GWENT: singing males heard at six sites and juveniles seen at four; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 sites and possibly at a further 27; GOWER: bred at 10 sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from six 1km squares; BRECON: six territories at two sites;

MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 23 sites in the breeding season; ANGLESEY: bred at Coed y Mor and probably at Mynydd Bodafon, Llyn Cefni and Silver Bay.

Counts of 10+: E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer, in Feb.; 16 at Caerlan Farm in March; CARMARTHEN: 12 at Dinefwr Park on 17 Dec; DENBIGH: 15 in Clocaenog Forest on 20 March.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus*

TITW'R HELYG

(A) A thinly distributed resident, most frequent in south and east Wales and absent from most of north-west Wales. Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	112	101
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	69	65

Breeding season (April to June): GWENT: pair bred in Wentwood; E.GLAMORGAN: 'present' in Ogmores Village on 3 Apr.; GOWER: Caedelyn Farm on 3 May; Lliw Reservoirs on 23 Apr.; Penllergare on 26 Apr.; a young bird was caught by ringers at

Oxwich Marsh on 18 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: records from Abergwili, Capel Seion, Ffrwd Fen, Pwll, Blaenduad and Llandybïe but dates not provided; PEMBROKE: three at Tŷ Rhyg in May and four here in July; CEREDIGION: pair at Denmark Farm in April, two at Cross Inn forest in May; adult feeding a fledged youngster on 31 May and a family party of four on 9 July at Cors Caron; BRECON: two birds visited feeders at The Cwm in all months except July and Dec. and song heard on 16 April; pair in Cwm Trewern, Defynnog, on 28 May; one at a traditional forestry site in Glasfynydd (E) on 2 June; juvenile ringed at Llangasty on 13 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: one near Rhos-y-Britthdir on 20 Apr.; three juveniles near Bwlchyddar (end July/early Aug); an ongoing study of the species is underway at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy where 12+ pairs breed and other pairs are probably in the Dyfnant Forest: three nests were found at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, of which two successfully fledged; CAERNARFON: bred at Coed Tŷ Res., with a family party seen on 27 June; FLINT: at Gronant on 30 Apr.; Afonwen on 13 May.

Outside the breeding season: E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Tirfounder Fields, near Garwnant Visitor Centre and south-west of Merthyr Tydfil on various dates in Jan. to March, and also at Garwnant in Oct. and Dec.; at Trecynon and north-west Robertstown on 14 Feb.; at Coed Taf Forest on 5 Nov.; GOWER: at Dyffryn Cellwen on 17-20 Jan.; Caedelyn Farm on 30 Jan.; Swansea Vale LNR on 14 Feb.; Clyne Valley on 30 March; Gorseinon to Grovesend on 31 July; Upper Killay on 4 Aug.; PEMBROKE: one at Llys y Fran and two at Rosebush and Ffynone Wood in Feb. and March; singles at Teifi Marshes, Milford and Westfield Pill between June and Nov.; BRECON: records from nine sites, three in Glasfynydd Forest; one in Llaneglwys Wood on 1 Jan.; one came to feeders at Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl, on four dates between Jan. and early Sept.; two in Mynydd Wysg forestry in Jan. and Nov.; song heard near Llanfawr Farm, Llangoed, on 25 Mar.; one on 6 Jan. and 9 Aug. at a regular site by the R. Usk inlet into Usk Res.; MONTGOMERY: at Dyfnant Meadows on 23 Mar.; at Cors Dyfi on 26 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: at Arthog on 1 Oct.; DENBIGH: records from 10 locations; two ringed at Bwlchddar on 26 July and one at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, on 27 Aug.; two at Llyn Brenig on 20 Nov.; at Moel Findeg on 22 Nov.



MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

TITW'R WERN

(B) A resident species, strongly sedentary, widespread but patchily distributed in the eastern half of Wales and in Pembrokeshire. Scarce or absent in other western and northern areas. Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	258	245
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	126	131

All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 41 records of 1-2 two birds, apart from three near Osbaston in Jan. and four at Cefn Ila in Feb.; 41% of the records were from the Penallt area, where Marsh Tits came regularly to feeders through the

year, and several were ringed. Seen regularly at 12 other sites, including Pontypool which also produced the only confirmed breeding record; E.GLAMORGAN: 1-2 at Cogan Wood, Cosmeston Lakes CP, throughout the year, including March/April and then again from Aug. to Dec.; at Pant-yr-Awel in March and April; at Parc Slip NR in Feb. and June; outside the breeding season singles in Cardiff, Kenfig NNR in Jan., East Aberthaw in Feb. and St. Nicholas in March; GOWER: up to three in Clyne Valley; two pairs in the Ilstone Valley; also in Oxwich Woods and Glynrhigos Farm but no breeding reported; CARMARTHEN: Dinefwr Park on 11 Jan.; Pont Felin Gât on 14 Feb.; Llyn Llech Owain on 5 Apr.; Pontiets on 27 Nov.; PEMBROKE: in 18 1km squares, with breeding evidence from two. Max. counts were six at Llanychaer, three at Ffynone Wood, Pickle Wood and Llys y Fran; CEREDIGION: Stagshead in Jan., Henllan on 23 Feb.; two at Llanio Woodland Reserve on 12 Apr.; Coed Dolgoed on 4 May and 7 July; Cors Caron on 22 May; Aberaeron on 12 June; Eglwysfach on 9 Nov.; BRECON: at 34 sites, many garden feeders in the south of the vice-county, but also seven sites in the Tarrell Valley between Libanus and Brecon with breeding confirmed in two; four territories along the canal between Brynich and Talybont in March; pairs in suitable habitat in May/June at Yscoedreddfin Farm Halfway, by the Usk at Sennybridge Camp where a nest with young was found, and in Cwmdud; fledged young were ringed from two territories on the southern margin of Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: present but scarce; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ynysfor on 21 Mar.; CAERNARFON: two at Coed Gorswen, Rowen, in March and May, and one here in June; ANGLESEY: at Penrhos CP on 7 Feb. and 17 July; Newborough Forest on 5 Apr.; DENBIGH: six records of singles; five at Bodelwyddan Castle on 5 Jan.; six at Chirk Castle on 30

Oct.; four recently fledged young near Pwllglas, Rhuthun, in June; FLINT: three records of singles; two at Llyn Helyg on 14 Nov.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

TITW BARFOG

(A) Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve; otherwise a rare autumn and winter visitor to reedbed areas. Wales Amber listed. On WRP list for records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	38	32
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	6	8

GWENT: Monthly maxima at Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth) are given in the table below. A co-ordinated survey recorded six territories, comparable with 2015. During the autumn, three were ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	2	4	10	6	1	3	14	6	10	7

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

EHEDYDD Y COED

(A) Formerly a breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	22	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	11	6

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Lavernock Point on 25 Nov., the fourth consecutive autumn at this site; GOWER: up to six at Mewslade on 22-23 Oct.; three at Rhossili/Worm's Head and two at Thurba Head also on 23 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles on

Bardsey on 11-12 and 20 Oct.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

(C) A widespread but declining breeding species; abundant passage migrant in autumn and winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2166	2202
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	11%
No of 1km squares	809	734

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained increase since 2010, taking the trend to 6% higher than 1995.

Breeding records included: GWENT: at various localities in the breeding season but breeding confirmed only at two sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at eight sites, and singing males/pairs in suitable habitat at another 47; 32 singing at Kenfig NNR in March; 14 singing at Ty'n-y-caeau Farm in March; six territories at Rhaslas Pond; GOWER: bred at four sites and probably at another three; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 33 1km squares; CEREDIGION: widespread especially in the uplands; BRECON: one kilometre squares held 19 singing birds (Roman Road), 30 (Llyn Dwr) and 28 (Ysgirfechan) respectively; on 4 May, of 45 birds along transects across 4 sq kms of Abergwesyn Common, 22 were singing, and on 21 June 47 of 59 birds were singing; survey in late May of 51 whole or part 1km squares of SE Elenydd found Skylark in all squares at an average density of 21.3 birds/km sq.; ten-mile circuit of the Black Mountains in mid-May found 57 birds, of which 51 were singing; 26 territories around Twyn Cil-rhew, Twyn y Dyfnant and Allt Ddu (Central

Beacons above Libanus) on 1 June; 18 along the southern edge of Mynydd Illtyd included several birds carrying food; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records from 39 sites with several family parties on Moel Penamnen, Llechwedd in June; CAERNARFON: bred at Morfa Aber and Morfa Madryn with display noted in Cwm Eigiau; none bred on Bardsey, the first blank year since they re-colonised in 2003; ANGLESEY: bred on headlands near Silver Bay, at RSPB Valley Wetlands and probably at RSPB Cors Ddysa, with singing males at six other sites; FLINT: bred at Gronant.

Large counts (100+): GWENT: 200 at Pentre-Poeth Road, Bassaleg; E.GLAMORGAN: 220 at Nash Point on 2 Oct.; 280 at Southerndown on 26 Nov.; GOWER: 150 at Paviland on 2 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Sandy Haven on 21 Dec.; 100 at St Brides on 28 Dec.; on Skomer max. counts included 153 on 2 Oct., 480 on 19 Oct., 640 on 20 Oct.; 185 on 26 Oct.; 105 on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Llanon on 4 and 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: max. counts on Bardsey : 194 on 2 Oct., 102 on 9 Oct. and 244 on 21 Oct.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

(A) Rare passage migrant or winter visitor, on WRP list. 77 records since 1991.

BRECON: one at Llyn y Fan Fawr and Fan Foel on 5 Mar. was the second Brecknockshire record; ANGLESEY: one on The Range on 30 Oct.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

EHEDYDD LLWYD

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 35 previous records.

CEREDIGION: one at Ynys Tachwedd fields on 31 May was the third vice-county record; DENBIGH: one at Rhyl on 12 Sept.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(C) Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties, increasing. Passage migrant in spring and autumn. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	1245	1474	Breeding: GWENT: 50 AON on R.Usk between Newbridge and Llanllowell; c.100 AON on the R.Usk upriver of Llanvihangel Gobion; six AON in stone walls and drainage holes in Monmouth; several small colonies on the Monnow between Kentchurch and Pandy; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 AON on R. Ogmore by Coed Pwll-y-fflew; 6 AON at Bridgend; 5 AON at Abercynon; also colonies at Cardiff Bay, Taf Bargoed Community Park, Quaker's Yard, and Peterston-super-Ely; GOWER: survey of 15 colonies found 470-475 AON (cf. 509-532 in 2015), with colonies on the R.Loughor below Pontardulais and at Aberpergwm Colliery having been abandoned, habitat at the latter being no longer suitable; largest colony is on the R.Loughor above Pontardulais and increased from 314 to 338 AON since 2015; CARMARTHEN: c.100 AON at ash cliffs at Burry Port; PEMBROKE: bred at one site; BRECON: 227 AON at Scethrog on R. Usk; active colony at Upper Gro, Glasbury; MEIRIONNYDD: c.120 active nests at Tonfanau; small colony at Pont y Gain; 18 AON in three colonies in Morfa Dyffryn dunes; CAERNARFON: two colonies around the mouth of the R.Dwyfor with seven and 10 AON; nine AON at Afonwen; colonies also at Porth Neigwl, Porth Ysglaig and possibly on the R.Rhyd-hir, Pwllheli; ANGLESEY: bred at Aberlleiniog, Hen Borth Cemlyn, Rhosneigr and Traeth
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%	
No of 1km squares	371	329	

Crigyll; DENBIGH: bred at Afonwen (up to 40 birds) and Brookhouse, Denbigh; FLINT: bred at Rhydymwyn.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	12 March	NWR Uskmouth		8 Oct.	Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN	23 Feb.	Kenfig Pool		12 Oct.	Dunraven
GOWER	6 March	Swansea Vale NR		3 Oct.	Mynydd Marchwyl
CARMARTHEN	7 March	Pwll Fishing Lakes		30 July	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	18 March	St David's Head		7 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	14 March	Cors Caron			
BRECON	21 March	Llangorse Lake		9 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	24 March	Dolydd Hafren			
MEIRIONNYDD	21 March	Ynys Saltings, Dyfi		29 Aug.	Ynys
CAERNARFON	25 March	Llanfairfechan		15 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 March	RSPB Cors Ddyga		18 Sept.	Llanfachraeth
DENBIGH	20 March	RSPB Conwy		11 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	23 March	Rhyl Brickworks		31 Aug.	Fagl GP, Hope

Large counts (100+) on passage: GWENT: 100 birds at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 July and 140 here on 18 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 600 at Cardiff Bay and 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 and 29 Mar.; 100 in Cardiff Bay on 28 July and 19 Aug.; GOWER: 800+ over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 26 Mar., and c.700 here on 11 Apr.; CARMARTHEN: c.100 heading SE at Pembrey Harbour on 30 July; PEMBROKE: 250 at Teifi Marshes on 2 Apr. and 200 here on 6 Apr.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Maesllyn pool on 10 Apr.; 170 at Teifi estuary on 12 July; BRECON: 550+ at Llangorse on 29 Mar., several flocks of 200+ here in April and 500 at dusk on 21 June, 28 and 31 July; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Dolydd Hafren in late June; ANGLESEY: 800 at Llyn Dinam on 12 Apr.; 200 at Traeth Crigyll on 26 July.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

(C) A widely distributed and common summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5064	5272
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	26%
No of 1km squares	1521	1397

The gradual downward trend in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues, with that for 2016 22% lower than 2015. However the index remains 30% above its 1995 level.

Breeding: GWENT: 43 nests from at least 11 sites.; E GLAMORGAN: bred at 18 sites; GOWER: bred at 33 sites; PEMBROKE: bred in 20 1km squares; BRECON: a poor breeding season with many traditional sites unoccupied or with pairs giving up; of note, bred at Ystrad Quarry in underground tunnels and under a rock overhang and in bunkers on MOD Epynt; CAERNARFON: 14 pairs nested on Bardsey, with productivity of 5.64 young per pair, 33% above the 2007-2016 mean and one of the highest this decade; ANGLESEY: 13 pairs at Cemlyn.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT*	26 March	Pontymister		29 Oct.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	22 March	Porthcawl		1 Nov.	Cardiff and Lavernock Pt
GOWER	16 March	Hawdref Fawr		21 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	25 March	Pembrey		25 Oct.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	23 March	Pencaman and Skomer		4 Dec.	Stackpole
CEREDIGION	24 March	RSPB Ynys-hir		27 Oct.	south of Ynyslas
BRECON	26 March	Llangorse Lake		9 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	25 March	Llyn Coed y Dinas		7 Oct.	Y Wern
MEIRIONNYDD	23 March	Ynys Saltings, Dyfi		29 Sept.	Llanfair
CAERNARFON	22 March	Llanfairfechan		26 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	25 March	Alaw est.		21 Oct.	Silver Bay
DENBIGH	24 March	Abergele		5 Oct.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	24 March	Shotton Steelworks		15 Oct.	Flint

*in GWENT there was a winter record of a bird at Blackwood on 28 Jan. and in FLINT one at Rhyl on 15 Dec.

Large spring passage counts (300+): PEMBROKE: 1000 at Trefarne on 30 April; 700 at Fishguard on 3 May; 3108 on Skomer on 3 May; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey: 463 on 6 May, 403 on 11 May and 761 on 18 May.

On return passage: GWENT: 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 14 Aug.; 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 350 at Lavernock Point on 30 Aug.; 500 at Rhymney Great Wharf on 6 Sept.; 1500 roosted at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 11 Sept., 2500 here on 12th, and 1200 on 14th; 2000 at Lavernock Point on 16 Sept.; GOWER: c.400 roosted at Oxwich Marsh on 27 July; 500 with House Martins over Broughton Bay on 13 Sept.; 1180+ over Taibach on 3 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: c.1000 roosted at Pembrey Burrows reedbed on 31 July and c.3000 here on 24 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 1062 on Skokholm in Aug. and 2720 during Sept.; 11,040 on Skomer on 27 Sept; CEREDIGION: 600 at Ynyslas on 31 Aug.; 450 at the Leri estuary on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey: 524 on 15 Aug., 491 on 29 Aug. and 404 on 28 Sept.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

(C) Summer visitor, well distributed and locally common. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2658	2618
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%
No of 1km squares	949	866

Having reached a peak in 2000, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been falling throughout this century, and is now almost back at its 1995 level.

Breeding: GWENT: nests at more than 20 sites, the largest colonies being 18 AON at Hafod Farm, Brynmawr, 15 AON at Wyllie and 25 AON at Ynysddu; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 21 sites, largest being 74 AON at Penarth Marina; GOWER: bred at 29 sites; BRECON: nests at nine sites with the largest colonies



House Martin (Claire Stott)

being at the watch tower at Talybont Res. and at Libanus; PEMBROKE: bred in 13 1km squares; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at five sites and probably at two or three others; CAERNARFON: c.35 nests at Abergwynnregyn where a count of 240 birds on 16 Aug. included about 70% juveniles, with others still being fed in nests; also bred at 12 other sites; ANGLESEY: bred at Capel Coch and Rhosneigr (five AON) and possibly bred at Cemlyn.

Earliest and latest dates by vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	26 March	Newport Wetlands and Pontymister	30 Oct.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	27 March	Llanishen/Lisvane Res. and Rudry	1 Nov.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	26 March	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	6 Oct.	Penllegare
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Bodran Felin Lake	16 Nov.	Penlan Uchaf
PEMBROKE	25 March*	Teifi Marshes	28 Oct.	Lydstep
CEREDIGION	25 March	Teifi est.	29 Sept.	Teifi est.
BRECON	28 March	Llangorse Lake	7 Oct.	Llanfrynach
MONTGOMERY	31 March	Cors Dyfi	2 Oct.	Montgomery
MEIRIONNYDD	30 March	Morfa Harlech	19 Sept.	Talsarnau
CAERNARFON	25 March	Bardsey	18 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	31 March	Cemlyn	3 Oct.	Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn
DENBIGH	26 March	Pendre	1 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	29 March	Fagl GP, Hope	2 Oct.	Rhydymwyn

* PEMBROKE: excludes a winter record at Tenby from 29 to 31 Jan.

Large counts (200+): GWENT: 287 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 7 May and 445 here and 1000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 27 Aug.; 412 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 21 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Ogmore Castle on 12 Sept.; c.2000 east of Lavernock Point on 9 Oct.; GOWER: 500 with Swallows over Broughton Bay on 13 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 200 near Fishguard on 3 May; BRECON: 240 over Pennorth on 14 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ at Pwll Penarth on 25 May; CAERNARFON: 224 over Bardsey on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 200 near Beddmanarch Bay on 3 Sept.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

TELOR CETTI

(B) Scarce breeding resident in central and south Wales and on Anglesey, increasing; occasionally recorded on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1184	1361
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%
No of 1km squares	119	133

GWENT: resident at Newport Wetland Reserve (Uskmouth) with max. counts of 26 in March, 35 in April and 70 (territorial males) in May (cf. 46 in 2015); also at Newport Wetlands, five territorial males along Saltmarsh Lane, at least two near Redhouse Barns and 2-3 at Goldcliff Lagoons; 11 singing males at Llanwern Steelworks; up to four at Peterstone Wentlooge and at Magor Marsh; single singing birds at six other sites on the Levels; one bird at The Moorings by the R.Usk through the year; E.GLAMORGAN: records from 33 locations, possibly bred at 11 locations; favoured sites include Kenfig Pool (breeding season max. six) and saltmarsh reedbeds (five), Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve (eight), Hendre Lake (three), Cosmeston Lakes CP (three), Cadoxton Ponds (eight) and Parc Tredelerch (three); GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh and Staffal Haegr, and probably at Llangennith Moors; records from 20 other sites, including 12 singing at Heol Cae'r Bont/Margam Moors in April; at Oxwich 26 were ringed with the first fledgling on 25 June; CARMARTHEN: 34 singing males, including 15 at Penclacwydd, six at Ffrwd Fen, four at Witchett Pool, three each at Kymer's Canal/Kidwelly Quay and at Ashpits Pond, and singles at three other sites; PEMBROKE: breeding season records from Penally, Goodwick Moor and Tenby Ritec; at seven other sites outside the breeding season; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: up to seven singing males at Teifi Marshes; CEREDIGION: up to two at RSPB Ynys-hir from 3 Jan. to the end of the year and at Glandwr from 12 Apr. to end of the year; singing birds also at Cors Caron on 1 Jan.; one at Cors Fochno on 18 Oct.; BRECON: resident at Llangorse Lake: three territories on south shore, one confirmed as successful by the ringing of a recently fledged juvenile on 30 July; MONTGOMERY: highest ever number of records: one at Pwll Penarth from 23 March to 25 May; one at Dolydd Hafren on 29 May, then on several dates during 30 Oct.-18 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1-2 recorded regularly at a site near Porthmadog; ANGLESEY: small numbers at RSPB Cors Ddyga all year, max. seven on 30 Oct.; up to three regularly at Llyn Cerrig Bach from Feb. to June; four at Llyn Penrhyn on 6 Jan.; up to two singing at Llyn Maelog in May; one singing near Llanddymfan on 15 May; five singing at RSPB Valley Wetlands in spring; four at Llyn Dinam on 9 June; DENBIGH: 1-2 at RSPB Conwy from Jan. to April and in Oct.-Nov.; FLINT: 1-2 at Gronant and at Shotton Steelworks/Shotwick, though five seen at Shotton Steelworks pool on 13 Apr. and nine were ringed here between March and Nov.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW CYNFFON-HIR

(C) A relatively common resident, widely distributed except on parts of Anglesey and Llŷn. Numbers fluctuate widely from year to year in response to the severity of winter weather. Increasing. Unusual on the islands. Wales Amber listed.

This species has been going from strength to strength since 2005 on the Breeding Bird Survey index for

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3519	3578
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	18
No of 1km squares	922	874

Wales, not even being halted by two cold winters at the start of the current decade. Counts were down on the previous year but remain 38% higher than in 1995.

Highest counts (20+): E.GLAMORGAN: 40 in Bute Park in Cardiff in first winter period; 40 at Kenfig NNR on 21 Oct.; GOWER: 21 ringed at Oxwich on 29 Oct.; BRECON: 32 at Ffordd Fawr on 18 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 30+ at Dolydd Hafren on 16 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 20 at Craig Bwlch-y-moch on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: 60+ in gardens at Penycae on 25 July; FLINT: 20+ at Connah's Quay NR on 10 July; 20+ at Shotton Paper Mill on 18 Sept.

Ringling: GWENT: a bird first ringed in 2012 was re-caught in Penallt in Jan. Typical lifespan is two years.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

TELOR PALLAS

(A) Vagrant, on WRP list. 93 previous records.

All single birds: PEMBROKE: on Skomer on 27 Oct., another here on 13 Nov.; at Strumble Head on 30 Oct.; GOWER; one at Rhossili on 29 Oct.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey on 30 Oct. (later ringed), others on 3 Nov. and 12 Nov.



Pallas's Warbler (Steve Stansfield)

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

TELOR AELFELYN

(B) Scarce autumn visitor.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	104	243
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	42	90

Prolonged easterly winds during October brought a record autumn influx, with some birds still being found at Christmas. The number of records necessitates a summary table this year.

The table below summarises the monthly occurrence for each vice-county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT										1		
E.GLAMORGAN										20	3	2
GOWER										29	1	
CARMARTHEN										4		
PEMBROKE		1						1	24			
CEREDIGION										6	1	
BRECON										2		
MONTGOMERY										1		
CAERNARFON										14		
Bardsey										56	4	
ANGLESEY									1	14	1	1
DENBIGH										4		
FLINT									1	2		

Of interest: GWENT: the sole record was a bird ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 22 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 4+ at Kenfig NNR from 3-23 Oct.; GOWER: six between Mewslade and Middleton on 9 Oct., five remaining until 17th; 16 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR, including nine on 8 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: a record year involving at least four individuals (just four previous records); PEMBROKE: one overwintered at Monk Haven (2 Feb. to 6 March); sites with multiple records were two at St David's Head, five on Skokholm and nine on Skomer; CEREDIGION: two at Coed Dolgoed were both ringed between 8 and 15 Oct.; BRECON: birds ringed at Llangasty on 8 Oct. and on 22 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: one at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 11-15 Oct. was the second vice-county record; CAERNARFON: sites with multiple records were four on the Great Orme, two on the Little Orme, four at Mynydd Mawr (Uwchmynydd) on 9 Oct.; on Bardsey, birds seen on all but six days between 3 Oct. and 4 Nov. (max. count 14 on 9 Oct., a new record daily count for the island and for Wales). 14 were ringed on the island; ANGLESEY: sites with multiple records were five at Breakwater CP, four at Wylfa Head and two at Soldier's Point (including one on 31 Dec.); DENBIGH: one ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy, on 8 Oct.; FLINT: one ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 9 Oct.



Wood Warbler (Annie Haycock)

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***TELOR Y COED**

(C) A summer visitor to oak woods throughout most of upland Wales, declining; passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	237	271
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	164	158

Breeding: GWENT: singing birds at 12 sites in the north and west, at three in the east and in Wentwood where 11 singing males were heard on 11-12 May; 13 nests in Wentwood, of which five failed and two others probably did so; three nests

at Graig Ddu, of which one failed but 11 young fledged from the other two; one nest at Barbadoes Hill; E.GLAMORGAN: recorded at 23 locations; bred at Blackmill and probably at 11 other sites; GOWER: probably bred at Pontrhydyfen, Cwm Dyffryn, and present in suitable habitat at nine other sites; CARMARTHEN: three nests at Halfway each with 6 eggs, fledging six young in the two nests where the outcome is known; also at Dinas through the summer; PEMBROKE: present at six potential breeding sites, including Canaston where eight singing birds were present; CEREDIGION: nine singing males at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws, on 15 May; BRECON: 1-4 singing at 14 locations; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-3 singing at 13 locations; CAERNARFON: 1-2 singing at 10 sites, and several territories in Coed Gwydyr; ANGLESEY: one singing at Penrhos CP on 7 May; DENBIGH: bred at two sites and probably/possibly bred at seven others; FLINT: singing birds at two sites.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	21 April	Wentwood		23 Aug.	Llanwern Steelworks
E.GLAMORGAN	24 April	Allt-yr-Rhiw Woods		22 July	Rhondda Heritage Park
GOWER	23 April	Cwm Pelenna		30 Sept.	Rhossili
CEREDIGION	20 April	Clettwr			
BRECON	22 April	The Cwm		6 July	Cnwch Wood
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Coed Pendugwm and Pontrobert			
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Liberty Hall		18 June	Llyn Cynwch, Llanelltyd
CAERNARFON	24 April	Coed Dolgarrog		20 Sept.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	20 April	Rhyd-y-Foel and Coed Hafod		28 June	Chirk Castle

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita***SIFF-SIAFF**

(B) A locally common breeding visitor in most counties, declining, wintering in small numbers. Scarce on Anglesey. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5177	5493
% of BirdTrack lists	30%	28%
No of 1km squares	1374	1271

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has continued to grow, up 8% between 2015 and 2016, and 67% above its 1995 level.

Winter records: GWENT: 12 coastal records in the first winter period and single figure counts in Nov. and Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: birds at 70 sites from 1

Jan. to 31 March including four birds at four sites in March; birds at 16 sites in Nov. and Dec., all bar one from the southern part of the recording area; ANGLESEY: single birds at four sites.

Wintering records for other counties where dates were provided:

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
GOWER	3			5
CARMARTHEN	2		2	2
PEMBROKE	6	2		4
CEREDIGION		2	1	1
BRECON	1-2		2	
MONTGOMERY	4	2	7	8
MEIRIONNYDD				1
CAERNARFON	3	4	16	3
DENBIGH	1-4	1-4	1?	2
FLINT	3	3	1?	1

Other notable record: CAERNARFON: 48 on Bardsey on 8 Oct.

***Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff)**

(A) On WRP list. 34 records since 1991.

The same Scandinavian high pressure system that brought Yellow-browed Warblers to Wales also brought at least 11 Chiffchaffs of the *tristis* race, over one-third of the Welsh total recorded since the formation of the Welsh Records Panel in 1991. Many others were claimed but details were not submitted to the WRP. The two overwintering birds in Pembrokeshire and spring passage bird on Bardsey are also worthy of mention.

All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Forest Farm NR on 25-26 Nov.; Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve from 27 Dec. into 2017; PEMBROKE: up to two at Milton from 16 Feb. to 7 Mar.; Skokholm on 9 Oct.; Skokholm on 15-20 Nov. The identification of the two Skokholm birds was confirmed by DNA analysis; CAERNARFON: seven on Bardsey: 12 May; 24 Oct.; two on 30 Oct.; two on 4-5 Nov., with a third bird on the 5th; the only other record was one ringed at Glan Conwy on 24 Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR YR HELYG

(C) The most abundant summer visitor. Numerous in suitable habitats up to around 670 metres. Also numerous passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2430	2685
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%
No of 1km squares	965	915

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continued the fall that began in 2010; in 2016, the count was 4% lower than its 2015 level. It has fallen almost 30% since the start of this century.

Selected counts in the breeding season (April to July): GWENT: 21 at Bargoed Woodland Park on 17 Apr.; 17 along the river between Rhymney and New Tredegar and 20 at Abergavenny on 20 Apr.; CEREDIGION: 70 singing at Cross Inn forest on 13 May; 27 at Clywedog plantation on 14 May; BRECON:

17 singing in a small area of Coed y Rhaiadr in mid-April; 15 within 2 km squares of Glasfynydd Forest in late-May; 50 territorial males around the upper Tarrell valley between Libanus and the Beacons between mid-May and late June; DENBIGH: 25 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 21 Apr.; 30 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 11 June; 34 ringed at Bronbannog on 23 July and 20 here on 5 Aug.; FLINT: 20+ at Rhyl Brickworks on 12 Apr.; 23 at Penycloddiau on 30 May.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each vice-county (note Nov. and Dec. dates):

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	28 March	Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)	20 Sept.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	31 March	Cosmeston Lakes CP	14 Dec.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	31 March	Fendrod Lake	18 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	31 March	Pembrey Burrows and Penclacwydd	1 Sept.	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	28 March	Skomer	26 Oct.	Marloes
CEREDIGION	3 April	Cross Inn forest		
BRECON	4 April	Llangasty	14 Aug.	Brechfa Pool
MONTGOMERY	13 March	Dolydd Hafren	18 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	19 March	Portmeirion	1 Oct.	Arthog
CAERNARFON	26 March	Bardsey	19 Nov.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 April	Cemlyn	19 Sept.	Breakwater CP
DENBIGH	3 April	RSPB Conwy	18 Sept.	Llangollen
FLINT	3 April	at three sites	18 Sept.	Sychdyn

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 25 south of Usk on 10 Aug. migrating with Chiffchaffs; E.GLAMORGAN: 48 at Kenfig NNR on 16 and 25 Apr., 26 here on 9 May; 29 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 2 Apr.; 20 at Cwm Drysiog, Maesteg, on 5 May; 40 at Lavernock Point on 5 and 9 Aug.; 25 at Pant Norton on 9 Aug.; 25 at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 18 Aug.; 17 at Kenfig Pool on 1 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 16 at Teifi Marshes on 18 Apr.; CAERNARFON: 42 on Bardsey on 3 Apr., 111 on 4 Apr., 151 on 20 Apr., 110 on 14 Aug. and 731 on 23 Aug.; DENBIGH: 22 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 25 Aug.

RADDE’S WARBLER
Phylloscopus schwarzi
Rare vagrant, on WRP list. Eight previous records.

TELOR RADDE

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 13 Oct., the sixth record for the island and seventh for the vice-county.

BLACKCAP
Sylvia atricapilla
(C) A plentiful summer visitor throughout Wales, increasing; passage migrant and small-scale winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

TELOR PENDDU

	2015	2016	Following almost two decades of increase, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has declined over the last three years, but it remains 151% above its 1995 level. The proportion of BirdTrack lists on which Blackcap was recorded also fell.
No of BirdTrack records	3222	3022	
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	15%	
No of 1km squares	1028	878	

Winter records: min. totals for both periods for each vice-county are shown in the table below except E.GLAMORGAN, where there were 71 records from 1 Jan. to 31 Mar. (max. six at Candleston) and 17 in Nov-Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
GWENT	5+	5+	1	9
GOWER	3	1		2
CARMARTHEN	2		2	1
CEREDIGION	1		1	1
BRECON	1		1	15
MONTGOMERY		2	3	3
CAERNARFON	2	1	7	2
ANGLESEY		1		2
DENBIGH	2	2	2	5
FLINT	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

Passage: GWENT: 43 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 95 on Bardsey on 13 Apr., 88 on 21 Apr. and 103 on 5 May.

GARDEN WARBLER
Sylvia borin

TELOR YR ARDD

(C) A common and widely distributed summer visitor. Regular passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016	
No of BirdTrack records	497	482	The current decade has seen Garden Warbler become scarcer in Wales, reflected in a fall in the proportion of BirdTrack lists submitted and a decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index, which fell by 18% on its 2015 level and looks set to fall below its previous 2004/05 low, 25% below the 1995 level.
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%	
No of 1km squares	279	246	

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	21 April	Penallt	29 Oct.	NWR Uskmouth
E.GLAMORGAN	25 April	Garth Mountain	22 Sept.	Vaindre Vawr, St Mellons
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors	8 Oct.	Oxwich Marsh (ringed)
CARMARTHEN	13 April	Penclacwydd	16 Oct.	Cefn Padrig
PEMBROKE	14 April	Haverfordwest	15 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	15 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	11 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	3 May	Llangorse Lake	21 Sept.	Brecon
MONTGOMERY	12 April	Aberbechan	19 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	8 May	Glaslyn, Gwynant and Cwm Bychan	4 Sept.	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	21 April	Coed Rhos-fawr, Pentir	21 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 May	Caeau Pen y Clip, Menai Bridge	6 Oct.	Breakwater CP
DENBIGH	17 April	Ruabon Mountain	24 Aug.	Ty-nant
FLINT	23 April	Shotton Steelworks & Mold	15 Sept.	Rhydymwyn

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria***TELOR RHESOG***(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list. 89 previous records.*

All records were single first-winter birds: CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 21-22 Sept.; Bardsey on 21 Oct.; DENBIGH: ringed in a Rhos-on-Sea garden on 18 Nov. and re-caught at the same location on 24th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca***LLWYDFRON FACH***(C) A summer visitor, declining. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	379	407
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%
No of 1km squares	141	138

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	13 April	Peterstone Wentlooge and NWR Goldcliff	17 Sept.	NWR Uskmouth and Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN*	13 April	Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston Lakes CP	7 Oct.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors	10 Sept.	Overton
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Penclacwydd	29 Aug.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	18 April	Teifi Marshes	11 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	20 April	Pen Dinas, Aberystwyth	10 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
BRECON	3 May	Llangynidr		
MONTGOMERY	17 April	Middletown		
CAERNARFON	19 April	Llandudno Junction	16 Sept.	Uwchmynydd
ANGLESEY	17 April	Llyn Cefni		
DENBIGH	24 April	at three sites	17 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	17 April	Prestatyn	10 Sept.	Rhyl

*Overwintering: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Brynmawr Mast, Maesteg, on 5 Feb.; one at The Trip, Ewenny, on 27-31 Dec. are not included in the table.

CARMARTHEN: one showing characteristics of the central Asian race *S.c. halmodendri* seen in a garden in the Dimpeth area of Llanelli in Dec. 2015 remained until 14 Jan. This form has yet to be admitted to the British – and thus Welsh - List.

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans***TELOR BRONGOCH***(A) Rare vagrant. On WRP list, but records of specific races to BBRC. Seven previous records assigned to this 'split'.*

All records were single males: PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 24 Apr.; another on 14 May; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 9-11 May.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis***LLWYDFRON**

(C) A widespread summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1766	1903
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%
No of 1km squares	570	540

The cyclical nature of the Whitethroat population makes for a rollercoaster of an index for the Breeding Bird Survey in Wales, and it is currently on a downward trajectory, 19% below its 1995 level but slightly higher than in 2015.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	12 April	West Pill	2 Oct.	NWR Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN	31 March	Bridgend	9 Oct.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	15 April	Penllergaer Valley wood	9 Oct.	Gorseinon
CARMARTHEN	13 April	Ashpits Pond and Morfa Berwig		
PEMBROKE	13 April	Stackpole Warren	17 Sept.	Cam Llidi
CEREDIGION	15 April	Llanrhystud	17 Oct.	Ynyslas
BRECON	12 May	Llanhamlach and Llangasty	8 Aug.	Caeau Ty Mawr
MONTGOMERY	24 April	Dolydd Hafren	17 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	17 April	Ynysfor	25 Aug.	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	17 April	Morfa Abererch	10 Oct.	Uwchmynydd
ANGLESEY	19 April	Port Lynas	4 Sept.	Silver Bay
DENBIGH	12 April	RSPB Conwy	11 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	17 April	Prestatyn	6 Sept.	Rhydymwyn

Notable counts: GWENT: 15 singing at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); E.GLAMORGAN: 16 at Kenfig Pool area on 25 Apr., 34 here on 3 May; 16 at Cardiff Bay on 5 May; 25 at Pant Norton on 9 Aug.; bred at 13 sites, probable at 13 others and possible at a further 52; CARMARTHEN: 13 territories at Penlclawydd; CEREDIGION: 27 singing at Cross Inn forest on 13 May; CAERNARFON: autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 24 on 24 Aug.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides***TELOR SAVI**

Very rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Seven previous records.

GWENT: held territory at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) from 29 May to 7 June, the second here in three years.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

TELOR DARTFORD

(B) A rare migrant to coastal areas, mainly in south and west Wales. Breeds in small numbers, and increasing. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	46	33
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	31	18

E GLAMORGAN: single birds on the Heritage Coast in Jan., June and Dec.; a juvenile was ringed at Kenfig NNR on 6 Aug. and there was a report from Llanilid on 12 Sept.; GOWER: fewer records in 2016; bred at four sites and birds present at nine

others during the breeding season; seen at two other sites at other times of the year, all on the Gower Peninsula; PEMBROKE: reported from seven locations during the breeding season and bred at least at two of these; CAERNARFON: at a site in the northeast of the vice-county, a double-clutched nest was abandoned, believed to be a result of disturbance in early June, apparently for photography. Birds were recorded here regularly up to June, but not subsequently.



Grasshopper Warbler (Henry Cook)

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

(C) Summer visitor, widely but thinly distributed in all counties. Passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	197	238
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	132	127

Breeding: GWENT: reeling at five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Morfa Ystradowen; reeling at 12 locations and pairs at three; CARMARTHEN: 16 reeling at 12 sites; three pairs at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in seven 1km squares; CEREDIGION: 10 reeling at Cors Caron on 19 Apr.; seven at Olmarch on 24 May; BRECON: reeling at seven sites, one holding seven territories; MONTGOMERY: recorded at four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 10 sites in the breeding season; CAERNARFON: reeling at 15 locations;

ANGLESEY: pair bred successfully at Cemlyn; reeling at 10 sites including six territories at RSPB Valley Wetlands.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	14 April	NWR Uskmouth		29 Aug.	NWR Uskmouth
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	Kenfig Pool		29 Aug.	Pant y Cwteri
GOWER	9 April	Crymlyn Burrows		10 Sept.	Oxwich (ringed)
CARMARTHEN	8 April	Pembrey		31 July	Ginst Point
PEMBROKE	11 April	Teifi Marshes			
CEREDIGION	11 April	RSPB Ynys-hir			
BRECON	29 April	BWT Ystrad Fawr		17 July	Mynydd Bwlch y groes
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Moel yr Henfaes, N Berwyn		23 July	Rhinog Fach
CAERNARFON	4 April	Bardsey		2 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	17 April	Cemlyn		7 Oct.	The Range
DENBIGH	20 April	Plas Maenan		27 Aug.	Bronbannog
FLINT	21 April	Gronant		15 Sept.	Rhydymwyn (ringed)

BOOTED WARBLER *Iduna caligata*

TELOR BACSIOG

Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Six previous records.

CAERNARFON: one on the Great Orme on 3-8 Oct. was the third record for the vice-county, but the first on the mainland.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*

TELOR PER

(A) A scarce but regular migrant, on WRP list. 218 previous records.

CAERNARFON: four on Bardsey: at least three on 24 Aug., with two on 25 Aug. and one remaining until 30 Sept.; another bird here on 26-30 Sept.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

TELOR AUR

Rare migrant, on WRP list. 108 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 29 Aug. and another on 6-19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: four on Bardsey: one from 24 Aug. to 15 Sept., second on 24 Aug. only, third on 25 Aug., and last on 11-16 Sept.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

TELOR BONELLI

Rare passage migrant, on BBRC list. 12 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 15-16 Aug.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Rare passage migrant. On WRP list. 23 previous records.

TELOR GWYRDD

CAERNARFON: four on Bardsey: two on 28-29 May; male singing on 5 June; another on 16 June. Three of these were caught and ringed.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

TELOR YR HESG

(C) A locally distributed summer visitor, numerous in some sites, increasing; plentiful passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	876	973
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%
No of 1km squares	229	262

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Llanwern Steelworks but probably at four other sites and possibly at a further five; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Tŷ-Maen Farm near the R. Ewenny and possibly at 17 other locations; GOWER: bred at five sites,

probably at another two and possibly at another six; CARMARTHEN: 30 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence in 19 1km squares; max. count of 102 birds at Teifi Marshes on 3 May; BRECON: bred at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: at 12 sites in breeding season; CAERNARFON: bred at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos and Morfa Madryn and probably at five other sites; min. 10 pairs nested on Bardsey, the highest on record and a 100% increase on the ten-year mean; ANGLESEY: bred at four sites and probably at another two; DENBIGH: bred at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: probably bred at Rhyl, Gronant and Shotton Steelworks.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	5 April	NWR Uskmouth	18 Sept.	NWR Uskmouth
E.GLAMORGAN	18 March	Black Path, R.Ogwr	14 Sept.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	13 April	Oxwich NNR	2 Oct.	Oxwich NNR
CARMARTHEN	12 April	Pembrey Burrows	9 Aug.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	11 April	Teifi Marshes	18 Aug.	Marloes
CEREDIGION	13 April	Glandwr	11 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	13 April	Llangasty	25 June	Traeth Bach and Mynydd Illtyd
MONTGOMERY	14 April	Cors Dyfi		
MEIRIONNYDD	4 May	Tonfanau	3 Sept.	Dwyrdd
CAERNARFON	14 April	Bardsey	9 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	14 April	RSPB Valley Lakes		
DENBIGH	8 April	RSPB Conwy	21 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	13 April	Shotton Steelworks	25 July	Gronant

Ringling: GWENT: between mid-July and early Sept., 568 were ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) of which 101 were on 5 Aug. (cf. 296 in 2015); GOWER: 177 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR in 2016, cf. 145 in 2015.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*
Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 24 previous records.

TELOR Y GWERNI

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 15-17 June was caught and ringed.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

TELOR Y CYRS

(C) Local summer visitor, breeding in reedbeds in many counties, increasing; scarce passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	805	840
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%
No of 1km squares	154	176

Breeding: GWENT: bred at four sites and present in suitable habitat at six others on the Gwent Levels, also inland at Llandegfedd Res.; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at five sites, probably at another two and possibly at a further 15; GOWER: bred at six sites, probably at four and present at five others; CARMARTHEN: 20 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: probably bred at five sites; CEREDIGION: bred at Teifi Marshes, Cors Fochno/Aberleri and RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: a poor breeding season at Llangorse; MEIRIONNYDD: heard at four locations; CAERNARFON: bred at three sites, probably at another two, with birds recorded in suitable habitat at four others; ANGLESEY: recorded at seven sites, breeding successfully at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: 10 territories at RSPB Conwy; five at Pensarn; FLINT: probably bred at Shotton Steelworks and Shotwick.

Ringling: GOWER Ringing Group caught 227 at Oxwich NNR in 2016 (cf. 159 in 2015), including 18 on 6 Aug.; late first-winter birds were caught on 29 Oct. and 19 Nov.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	28 March	NWR Uskmouth	2 Oct.	NWR Uskmouth
E.GLAMORGAN	10 April	Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve	27 Sep.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	14 April	Kenfig rivermouth	19 Nov.	Oxwich NNR (ringed)
CARMARTHEN	13 April	Morfa Berwig	14 Aug.	Kymer's Canal
PEMBROKE	12 April	Bosherton	8 Oct.	Ramsey
CEREDIGION	14 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	9 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	2 April	Llangorse Lake	1 Oct.	Brecon
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Cors Dyfi	11 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	1 May	Tywyn seafront	4 July	Ynys Pool
CAERNARFON	23 April	Dolgarrog	9 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 April	Llyn Carreglwyd		
DENBIGH	17 April	RSPB Conwy	22 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	13 April	Shotton Steelworks	21 Aug.	Shotton paper mill

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Rare vagrant, on WRP list. Four previous records.

TELOR Y CYRS BLYTH

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey from 29 Sept. to 1 Oct.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus***CYNFFON SIDAN***(B) Scarce winter visitor.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1	159
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	1	51

After an early record in Sept. a modest influx into northeast Wales in Nov. and Dec. All records: CARMARTHEN: one at Five Roads on 3 Dec.; CEREDIGION: one at Bryngwn near Newcastle Emlyn on 23 Nov.; BRECON: nine in Llanwrthwl on 31 Dec.; two in Brecon on 31 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: six at Coedway on 18 Dec.; one in Machynlleth on 20-26 Dec.; seven in Llanidloes on 27 Dec.; 12 in Guilsfield on 28 Dec.; 40+ in Newtown from 29 Dec.; 12 in Welshpool on 30 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: one on Cob Crŵn, Glaslyn Marshes, on 9-10 Nov.; CAERNARFON: three over Bardsey on 30 Oct.; flock in Llandudno from 25 Nov. reached 50 by 31 Dec.; up to seven in Caernarfon from 28 Dec.; singles in Penisarwaun on 23 Nov. and 5 Dec., Caerhun on 3 Dec. and Bardsey on 28 Dec.; DENBIGH: first at Bodelwyddan on 13 Nov.; until mid-Dec. most records were from the coast and lower Conwy valley, the highest counts being 40 at Pentrefelin and Llansanffraid on 19 Nov.; records shifted south and east in late Dec. with maxima in the last week of Dec.: 25 at Colwyn Bay, 70 in Wrexham and 90 in Denbigh; FLINT: six in St Asaph on 10 Sept., the flock growing to 61 on 24 Dec.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea***DELOR Y CNAU***(C) A widely distributed and fairly numerous resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2565	2377
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	11%
No of 1km squares	881	758

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen back slightly in the last few years but sustained growth to 2010 means that it remains 47% above its 1995 level.

Selected records: GWENT: of 15 boxes monitored in the Brynithel area, nearly all fledged some young; GOWER: at Cwm Clydach study area, ten pairs fledged 22 young: 2.2 young/box (cf. 4.2 in 2015). Cold wet weather in June is the probable cause of failure; PEMBROKE: 102 records from 42 1km squares, with breeding evidence from eight of these; MEIRIONNYDD: one visited the Ynysfor Osprey nest on 17 Aug.; ANGLESEY: nest building at Aberlleiniog, probable breeding at Brynteg, and two pairs successful west of Brynteg.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris***DRINGWR BACH***(D) Resident. Widely distributed in woodlands throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the islands. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	974	973
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%
No of 1km squares	487	459

Having taken a substantial dip in the first decade of this century, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been recovering well since 2010 and now lies 36% above its 1995 level.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes***DRYW***(C) Abundant resident, found from sea-level to c.900 metres. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	8544	10222
% of BirdTrack lists	53%	56%
No of 1km squares	1884	1803

Having taken a dip in the first decade of this century, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been recovering well since 2010 and is now at its highest level since the survey began, 34% above 1995. Wren's incidence on BirdTrack lists increased further in 2016 although Gwent Ornithological Society reported a 40% reduction in records compared to 2015.

Selected site counts: CARMARTHEN: 121 territories at Penclacwydd; BRECON: 24 above Sennybridge; 28 on SE Elenydd. CAERNARFON: on Bardsey the breeding census total of 163 territories was lower than 2015 but still well above the 2007-16 mean; DENBIGH: 30 at Pant y Tudur.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris***DRUDWEN***(C) A common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor in large numbers. Wales Red listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	4727	4766
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	25%
No of 1km squares	1008	1011

No signs of a recovery in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which has been 'bumping along the bottom' for several years, 70% below its 1995 level. The 2016 count was 38% below that for 2015.

Large winter flocks (1000+) in the first winter period: GWENT: 3000 roosted on Monkey Island on 30 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 2000 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 20 Jan.; 2000 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 24 Feb. and 19 March; CARMARTHEN: "many thousands" at Ffrwd Fen on 4 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 50,000 at Teifi Marshes in early Jan.; CEREDIGION: 4000 at Swyddffynnon on 26 Feb.; BRECON: 1500 in Brecon on 21 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 100,000 at Cors Ystumlyn on 16 Jan.; 130,000 heading here from Criccieth on 18 Feb.; 1000 on Bardsey on 12 March; DENBIGH: 6000 at RSPB Conwy on 21 Jan. and 50,000 here on 10 Mar.; 2500 at Colwyn Bay pier on 12 Feb.; FLINT: 5000 at Rhuddlan on 10 Jan., and 2500 here on 26th.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 1200 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 23 Oct. and 2633 here on 29th; 20,000 roosted at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 13 Nov. and 15,000 here on 20 Nov. and 29 Dec.; 3000 roosted at Monkey Island on 24 Dec.; 1500 at Redwick on 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1539 at Penrhwifer in Nov.; 3000 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 20 Nov.; 2000 at St.Donats on 13 Dec.; GOWER: 3000+ in fields at Knelston on 31 Oct.; 2000 at Oxwich Marsh on 28 Oct.; c.1300 at Margam Wharf reedbeds on 9 Dec.; c.1750 over Llanrhidian Marsh on 27 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 12-15,000 at Pembrey Burrows on 5 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 50,000 at Pickle Wood on 20 Nov.; 75,000 at Warren Wood on 24 Dec. and at Slebech on 28th; CEREDIGION: 5000 at Talgarreg on 10-11 Nov.; BRECON: 10,000 at Llangorse Lake in late Oct., increasing to 80,000 on 11 Nov., then 25,000 in mid-Dec.; MONTGOMERY: c.5000 near Llanidloes on 22 Oct.; 3000+ at Dolydd Hafren on 13 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1500 at the Broadwater on 20 Nov.; 4300 at Llandrillo on 18 Dec. and 3000 here on 29th; CAERNARFON: 1000 above Llanfairfechan on 7 Nov.; 1218 on Bardsey on 30 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 2000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5 Dec.; 2000 heading towards Cors Erddreiniog on 14 Dec.; DENBIGH: 6000 at Pant y Tudur on 8 Nov.; 2000 at Ty'n-twill, Berwyns, on 11 Nov.; 1000 at RSPB Conwy on 24 Oct. and 28 Nov.; FLINT: 1200 at Rhyl on 20 Nov.; 1000 at Northop on 29 Nov.; 2500 roosted at Gronant on 13 and 20 Dec.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus***DRUDWEN WRIDOG**

(A) A rare visitor, most often recorded from Pembrokeshire and Caernarfonshire. On WRP list. 101 previous records.

GOWER: juvenile on garden feeders in Port Talbot from 29 Sept. to 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: juvenile at Ynyslas in a flock of Starlings on 23-29 Sept., with a second juvenile here on 25-26 Sept.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus***BRONWEN Y DWR**

(C) Common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas. In winter some individuals move into the lowlands and also make use of estuaries, rocky coasts and lake edges. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	902	935
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%
No of 1km squares	388	344

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: bred at 16 sites, plus six territories in and near the Black Mountains, 5-7 on the R.Angidy, three on the R.Whitebrook and two on the R.Trothy; six pairs had nests in 1.5km of the R. Rhymney; 92 nestlings

were ringed and many pairs had second broods; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 12 sites, and probable or possible at a similar number; at Bargoed Woodland Park, six pairs along a mile stretch of the R.Rhymney; GOWER: 21 nests including five on the R.Ffrydwyllt and four on the R.Afan; CARMARTHEN: survey of 24 nests in the east of the vice-county had a mean clutch size of 4.8, and 2.2 young in 11 successful nests; PEMBROKE: recorded from 19 1km squares, with breeding evidence in at least four; BRECON: broods recorded on the R.Dulas, R.Mellte, R.Caernafell and at three sites on the R.Usk; MEIRIONNYDD: pairs at seven sites in the breeding season; CAERNARFON: on many rivers in the breeding season, with the largest number of records from the R.Conwy catchment; ANGLESEY: probably bred in Llangefni; one in the Cadnant valley, Menai Bridge, on 11 May; DENBIGH: bred at eight sites. FLINT: bred at Greenfield Valley.

Ringling: CARMARTHEN: a pullus ringed in Cynghordyon on 27 Apr. was controlled at Craven Arms, Shropshire, on 10 Oct., 77km to the northeast.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus***MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD**

(B) Summer visitor breeding in the uplands in decreasing numbers; passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	242	156
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	111	81

Breeding: BRECON: no confirmed breeding; RADNOR: bred at four sites; MONTGOMERY: male carrying food near Llangynog on 6 June was an excellent record; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Arenig Quarry, and signs of breeding at six other sites;

CAERNARFON: present at several sites in the Carneddau and Nant Ffrancon, others on Snowdon, Garnedd Goch above Pant Glas, Cwm Pennant and Y Garn, Nantlle Ridge.

Passage counts (10+ birds): PEMBROKE: up to nine at St David's Head on 20-22 Apr.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Cwmystwyth on 23 Apr.; BRECON: 7-10 in the upper Senni valley on 16 Apr.; RADNOR: 25+ birds at six sites between 22 Mar. and 30 Apr.; 22 in Claerwen Valley on 10 Oct. (also in Brecon); CAERNARFON: 11 in the Anafon valley on 12 Apr.; eight at Blaen Llwyn above Llanfairfechan on 27 Apr.; ANGLESEY: 10 at RSPB South Stack and five at Holyhead Mountain on 20 Apr.



Ring Ouzel (Tony Pope)

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	10 April	The British	28 Oct.	Newport (Uskmouth) Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	15 April	Dunraven and Mynydd Eglwysilan	16 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	28 March	Tankeylake Moor	3 Oct.	Mynydd Marchywel
CARMARTHEN	23 April	Cilycwm	2 Nov.	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	17 April	RSPB Ramsey Island	23 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	4 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		
BRECON	6 April	Craig Cerrig Gleisiad	31 Oct.	Elan Valley
RADNOR	22 March	location not provided	10 Oct.	Claerwen Valley
MONTGOMERY	13 April	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy	20 Oct.	Long Mountain
MEIRIONNYDD	10 March	Cwm Nantcol, Llanbedr	30 Oct.	Tal-y-Llyn
CAERNARFON	29 March	Great Orme	22 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	13 Feb.	Carmel Head	16 Oct.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	24 March	World's End	12 Oct.	Rhewl, Llangollen
FLINT	3 April	Penycloddiau		

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula***MWYALCHEN***(C) Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	11197	12459
% of BirdTrack lists	67%	66%
No of 1km squares	2048	2018

Recent years have seen a slight fall in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, but the longer term trend is much more positive, 38% above its 1995 level.

Large counts (30+): GWENT: 30 at Osbaston on 1 Jan.; 38 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 28 Feb.; 41 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 11 March; 108 at Caldicot Castle on 8 Nov.; 59 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 34 at Heath Park, Cardiff, on 29 Feb.; 43 at Kenfig NNR on unusual date of 1 May; 54 at Kenfig NNR on 23 Nov.; 35 at Tirfounder Fields on 7 Nov.; 30 at Ty'n-y-caeau Farm on 7 Dec.; GOWER: 131 around Fendrod Lake on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 32 at Teifi Marshes on 3 Dec.; 30 at Amroth on 26 Dec.; BRECON: 35 at Lower Neuadd Res. on 25 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Dolydd Hafren on 16 Oct.; DENBIGH: 30 at Kinmel Bay on 14 Feb. and 6 Dec.; 30 at Penycae on 17 Mar.; 50 at Llangwyfan on 10 Oct.; FLINT: 40 at St Asaph on 17 Dec. and 47 here on 27th; 36 in the Rhyl area on 27 and 29 Dec.

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus atrogularis***BRYCH GYDDFDYWYLL***(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. One previous record.*

DENBIGH/FLINT: one at St Asaph from 12 Dec. into 2017 was well-twitched, spending most of its time in Flintshire but straying into Denbigh at least once, on 27 Dec. First record for both vice-counties.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris***SOCAN EIRA***(C) A winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	721	781
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%
No of 1km squares	333	345

Latest and earliest reports in each vice-county:

	Latest	Site	Earliest	Site
GWENT	4 April	Ysgyryd Fach	11 Oct.	Llandevenny
E.GLAMORGAN	13 April	Gelli Wrgan	1 Oct.	Rhaslas Pond
BRECON	6 March	at three sites	17 Sept.	Middleton
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Pembrey	8 Oct.	Kidwelly Quay and Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	15 April	Tŷ Rhyg	21 Oct.	Wiston
CEREDIGION	12 April	no location provided	14 Oct.	no location provided
BRECON	10 April	Pennorth	9 Oct.	Glyn Tarrell
MONTGOMERY	27 April	Llanidloes	11 Oct.	Llanidloes
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Llidiart Quarry	13 Oct.	Cynwyd Forest
CAERNARFON	1 April	Bardsey	10 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	12 March	Silver Bay	11 Oct.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	4 April	Esclusham Mountain	21 Aug.	Bodfari
FLINT	15 April	Connah's Quay NR	30 Oct.	Garth, Cilcain

High counts (120+) in the first winter period: GWENT: 170 at Undy Levels on 23 Mar.; GOWER: 120+ at Mynydd Marchywel on 15 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Llyn Eiddwen on 10 Jan.; 150 at Cors Caron on 21 Feb.; BRECON: 180 near Eglwys Wood on 1 Jan.; 130 on Epynt on 3 Jan.; 120 at Llandefalle Hill on 22 Feb., and 250 here on 6 March; DENBIGH: 200 at Erddig Park, Wrexham, on 20 Jan.; 150 at Foel Gasnach, Clocaenog Forest, on 5 Mar.; 120 at Eglwyseg on 28 March.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 150 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 28 Oct.; 808 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 1 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Garwnant on 30 Oct.; 2000 at Lavernock Point on 1 Nov.; GOWER: 150 at Middleton on 31 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 200 at Pâl y Cwrt on 11 and 18 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Wiston and 200 at Fern Hill on 7 Nov.; 120 at Lydstep on 23 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Cwm Einion on 14 Nov.; BRECON: 1600 at Cwm Banw on 24 Oct.; 'huge numbers' between Mynydd Illtyd and Heol Senni on 26 Oct.; 30,000 around The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 28 Oct.; 6000 in Llanwrthwl on 30 Oct.; 300 at Craig-y-Cilau on 1 Dec.; RADNOR: 4000 in Claerwen Valley on 21 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 750 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 23 Oct.; 200+ around Frochas Common in mid-Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 in Carreg y Foel Gron quarry on 21 Oct.; 200 at Llyn Celin on 23 Oct.; 2000+ in Cwm Hirnant on 2 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 200 at Rhyd-ddu on 29 Oct.; DENBIGH: 1000 at Penycae on 14 Oct.; FLINT: 140 at Ynys, Rhyl, on 28 Nov.; 150 at Deeside Industrial Park on 11 Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

(D) A widely distributed and fairly common resident, formerly abundant. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	4799	5315
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	28%
No of 1km squares	1267	1246

Recovering from a four-year dip at the start of the current decade, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 38% higher than its 1995 level.

One count of 30+: E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Lavernock Point on 1 Nov.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN-ADAIN

(C) An abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1468	1722
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%
No of 1km squares	504	538

Large counts (120+) in the first winter period: GWENT: 200 at Ysgryd Fach between 13 Feb. and 4 Mar.; 500 at Llanwenarth on 4 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: flocks of 150+ at nine sites in Feb.; GOWER: c.150 near Margam Park on 6 Mar.;

BRECON: 150 near Crai on 6 Jan.; CAERNARFON: “many thousands” heard over Llandudno after dark on 24 Mar.; ANGLESEY: 150 near Din Lligwy on 16 and 23 Jan.; 120 at Silver Bay on 12 Mar.; DENBIGH: 200 at Erddig Park, Wrexham, on 20 Jan.; 300 at Eglwyseg on 22 Mar.; FLINT: 125 at Rhuddlan on 5 Feb.; 200 at Buckley on 15 Mar. and 150 here on 23rd.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 300 at Brynmawr on 23 Oct.; large movement at Peterstone Wentlooge in Nov. (max. 1654 on 26 Nov.); 600 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 6 Dec.; 200 at Osbaston on 16 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150+ at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer, and 160 in Rudry on 30 Oct.; 1500 at Lavernock Point on 1 Nov.; 455 in Cardiff on 2 Nov.; 2000 at Lavernock Point on 25 Nov.; 225

on Peterston Moors on 18 Dec.; 200 at Wentloog Level on 26 Dec.; 150 at Island Farm on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 450+ over Mynydd Marchywel on 3 Oct.; 129 over Swansea Vale on 24 Oct. and 104 here on 1 Nov.; 148 at Middleton on 30 Oct.; c.370 over Margam on 2 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 3000 at Cwm Einion on 23 Oct.; BRECON: 'hundreds' over Gwaun Hepste on 4 Oct.; 2000 at Llanwrthwl on 23 Oct.; 4000 passed down the Wye Valley on 30 Oct.; 2000 at Cwm Banw on 24 Oct.; 200 at Llangasty from 29 Oct. to 3 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ at Welshpool on 4 Oct.; c.250 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 23 Oct.; 300 at Dolydd Hafren on 16 Nov.; 200 at Newtown on 29 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 300 at Cwm Hirnant on 2 Nov.; 200 at Waen yr Hydd, Llandrillo, on 18 Nov. increasing to 250 on 22nd and 400 on 4 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 146 on Bardsey on 20 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 200 at Brynteg on 22 Oct.; DENBIGH: 500 at Llysfaen on 4 Dec.; FLINT: 300 at Bagillt on 28 Nov.; 280 at Pantymwyn on 1 Dec.; 140 on 3 Dec.; 140 at Gronant on 4 Dec.

Latest and earliest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	15 April	Newport Wetlands	3 Oct.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	1 April	Lavernock Point	2 Oct.	Llandough Hospital
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors	2 Oct.	Bishopston
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Pembrey	2 Oct.	Llandybïe
PEMBROKE	11 April	Yerbeston	9 Oct.	Ramsey
CEREDIGION	18 May	Coed Dolgoed	3 Oct.	location not provided
BRECON	18 March	The Cwm Llanwrthwl	4 Oct.	Gwaun Hepste, Llangasty, Cwm Claisfer
MONTGOMERY	20 March	Dolydd Hafren	11 Sept.	Crewgreen
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Nant Prysor	4 Oct.	Llan Ffestiniog
CAERNARFON	7 April	Rowen	14 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	12 March	Silver Bay	21 Sept.	Amlwch Port
DENBIGH	28 March	Eglwyseg	4 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	23 March	Buckley	10 Sept.	St Asaph

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

BRYCH Y COED

(C) *A fairly common resident; many young birds emigrate in their first autumn. Wales Amber listed.*

	2015	2016	The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows signs of an upward bounce following a decline of more than a decade, and has now returned almost to its 1995 level.
No of BirdTrack records	2582	2627	
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	13%	
No of 1km squares	921	896	

Largest flocks (20+): CARMARTHEN: 20 at Pembrey CP on 26 Sept.; BRECON: 26 near Pen Milan on 2 July; 70 at Llangorse on 31 July; 30 near Lower Neuadd Res. on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 21 at Morfa Madryn on 6 July; 45+ at Caerhun on 28 July; ANGLESEY: 23 at Silver Bay on 1 Oct.; DENBIGH: 29 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, on 4 Sept.; 23 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 11 Oct.; 22 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 13 Dec.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

(C) Once a common summer visitor, now declining; passage migrant, May and August/September. Wales Red listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	305	336
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	205	221

Breeding: GWENT: records at 27 sites; no confirmed breeding but five pairs in suitable habitat; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Gwern Leyshon, Rudry Common and Peterston-super-Ely; probable family groups of eight in Bryngarw CP on 28 May

and six at Pant-yr-Awel on 19 July; CARMARTHEN: only nine records; brood at Penybedd Wood on 11 June was the only one with breeding evidence; PEMBROKE: recorded in 20 1km squares with breeding evidence from six; CEREDIGION: two pairs at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws; three pairs at Stagshead; five pairs in the Llanddewi Brefi area; BRECON: 72 territories is a good total; family parties at 10 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 12 sites in the breeding season, including two nests at Groeslwyd, Dolgellau, and a fledged juvenile at Cynwyd; CAERNARFON: bred at Sarn Mellteym, Henryrd and Rowen, possible breeding at 10 more sites; ANGLESEY: pair bred at Llyn Cefni; DENBIGH: eight breeding pairs; FLINT: broods at Llyn Helyg and Greenfield Valley, and two possible breeding pairs elsewhere.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	2 May	at three sites	17 Sept.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	3 May	Cardiff Bay	2 Oct.	Merthyr Mawr
GOWER	7 May	Margam Park	27 Aug.	Overton
CARMARTHEN	6 May	Ffrwd Fen	1 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	30 April	Llanychaer	10 Sept.	Porthclais
CEREDIGION	5 May	Lledrod		
BRECON	6 May	Tirabad	26 Aug.	Talybont Res.
MONTGOMERY	3 May	Glansevern		
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Ynysfor	21 Aug.	Penrhyndeudraeth
CAERNARFON	3 May	Bardsey	3 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	5 May	Soldier's Point	9 Oct.	Carmel Head
DENBIGH	4 May	RSPB Conwy	6 Sept.	Bwlchyddar
FLINT	7 May	Rhyl Brickworks	18 Aug.	Rhes-y-Cae

Passage: CAERNARFON: on Bardsey: 31 on 7 May, 44 on 8 May and 68 on 23 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 15 at Carmel Head on 7 May.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

(C) A common and widespread resident in all counties and a passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	10751	12307
% of BirdTrack lists	65%	66%
No of 1km squares	1985	1998

Following a couple of dips, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales stands at its highest ever level, 11% above its 1995 starting point.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 36 birds at Penallt in March and April; 37 at Beacon Hill/Cleddon on 31 Mar.; 28 at Loysey/Wet Meadow on 14 Apr.; 20 caught

in a Penallt garden in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 28 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 5 Mar.; 30 at Lavernock Point on 30 Aug.; 48 at Kenfig NNR on 2 Oct.; 24 in Heath Park, Cardiff, on 1 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 34 territories at Penclacwydd; BRECON: 29 along the canal between Pencelli and Talybont on 11 Mar.; CEREDIGION: 33 in the Llanbedr area on 2 Apr.; 36 birds in Coed y Rhaiaidr on 12 Apr.; 27 in Talybont Forest on 3 Oct.; 32 above Aberystwyth on 24 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 at Pennal, on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 40 on the Little Orme on 22 Sept. and 25+ here on 15 Oct.; 67 on Bardsey on 20 Sept., 54 here on 11 Oct. and 65 on 20 Oct.; DENBIGH: 30 singing around Rhuthun on 20 Jan.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

EOS

(A) *Scarce passage visitor, on WRP list. 33 records since 1991.*

PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 13 May; FLINT: one singing from thick cover near Mold on 12 May.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus*

CYNFFONLAS YSTLYSGOCH

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Three previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one on the Great Orme on 9 Oct. is the first record on the Welsh mainland.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

(A) *Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 194 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: first-winter on Skokholm on 28 Oct.; CAERNARFON: a female/immature on Bardsey on 28 May; first-winter on Bardsey on 8 Oct.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

(C) *A common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties, rare on Anglesey. Wales Red listed.*

	2015	2016	Selected breeding records: GWENT: two singing at Penallt on 6 May; nests at Llanfair Kilgeddin, Neuadd Cwmyoy and Strawberry Cottage Wood; E.GLAMORGAN: pair at Pant-yr-Awel on 4 May and a female here in June and July; GOWER: at Cwm Clydach study area: 28 nests (c.27 in 2015) of which 21 fledged 101 young: 3.6 per box (cf. 4.4 per box in 2015); CARMARTHEN: 'still numerous' at Dinas; eight pairs nested in boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland, and a male visited a box at Aberglasney; PEMBROKE: three pairs bred at Llanychaer; three boxes used at Cwm Gaun; birds inspected boxes at Ffynone Wood but did not breed; CEREDIGION: 35 singing at RSPB Ynys-hir; nine singing at Denmark Farm; BRECON: 40+ territories at The Cwm; three pairs used boxes at Cathedine Common; MONTGOMERY: 93 nests at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records from 22 sites; at Coed Crafnant, Pen y Bont, 279 fledged from 57 boxes; 41 fledged from seven boxes at Gwaith Powdwr; CAERNARFON: 60+ at Rowen; 27 fledged from five boxes at Tŷ Hyll; nest in a Dormouse box at Gorswen; 1-3 birds at 17 other sites; DENBIGH: in the Eglwyseg valley, Llangollen, 24 first clutches produced an average of 4.5 young; FLINT: bred at Rhydymwyn.
No of BirdTrack records	407	359	
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%	
No of 1km squares	235	174	

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	17 May	NWR Saltmarsh Lane		6 Aug.	Osbaston
E.GLAMORGAN	11 April	Dunraven		15 Sept.	Ogmore-by-Sea
GOWER	17 April	Cilfrew/Crynant			
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Aberglasney and Dinefwr Park		27 Aug.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	11 April	Skomer		8 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	9 April	RSPB Ynys-hir			
BRECON	5 April	The Cwm		9 July	The Cwm
MONTGOMERY	10 April	Llanfyllin			
MEIRIONNYDD	25 March	Ynysfor		31 July	Coed y Parc, Dolgellau
CAERNARFON	11 April	Bardsey		30 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	9 May	Cemlyn		10 Sept.	Carmel Head
DENBIGH	13 April	Rhos-y-brithdir		5 Aug.	Bwlchyddar
FLINT	30 April	Nant Alyn and Rhydymwyn		19 July	Rhydymwyn

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

TINGOCH DU

(B) Spring and autumn passage migrant. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	321	502
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%
No of 1km squares	77	117

Breeding: BRECON: male close to a previous breeding site on 19 May, and probably the same on 1 July; CAERNARFON: pair bred in a disused quarry in the Llanberis area, fledging four young, the first breeding record in the vice-county.

Non-breeding records are single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Glan Lyn on 12 Jan.; Peterstone Wentlooge from 20 Jan. to 10 March; Sudbrook on 23 and 28 Jan., moving to the disused paper mill on 14 Feb.; two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22 Dec., probably one of the same at Goldcliff Point on 29th; E.GLAMORGAN: records from nine localities between 5 Jan. and 23 March: Barry, Penarth Marina, Swanbridge, Coney Beach, Nash Point, near Ty'n-y-caeau Farm, Sker Farm and Cardiff Bay. Between 15 Oct. and 31 Dec.: 1-2 at Lavernock Point, Aberthaw Power Station, Aberdare, Cardiff University, Cardiff foreshore, Southerndown, Bute Quarry - Miskin, Nash Point, Gileston and Sker; 1-2 at Penarth Marina from 27 Oct. to 31 Dec., and three here on 15 Nov.; GOWER: Rhossili on 15 Feb. and 1-2 here from 26 Oct. to 15 Nov.; two at Broughton caravan park on 26-30 Oct.; two at Middleton on 31 Oct.; Port Talbot Steelworks on 27 Nov.; Briton Ferry on 3 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Llanelli on 6 Jan. and 27 Feb.; Llansteffan from 16 Jan. to 19 March; near Sandy Water Park on 24 Nov.; PEMBROKE: two at Porthlysgi on 10 Jan. and one here on 19th; at Amroth, Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest in Jan.; Broad Haven on 10 March; Fishguard Fort on 12 March; at Carningli, St Ann's Head, Llanwnda and Stackpole between 13 Oct. and 1 Dec.; on Skokholm eight in spring and 10 in autumn; on Skomer six in spring and seven in autumn; CEREDIGION: male and female at Aberystwyth from 1 Jan. to 25 Mar. and 29 Oct. to 31 Dec.; New Quay on 11 Feb. and 20 Mar.; Capel Seion on 21 May; GlanYrAfon, Aberystwyth, on 3-5 Aug.; Cwmystwyth on 2 Nov.; Llanrhystud on 3 Dec.; BRECON: Claerwen Dam on 9 May; possible at Graig Ddu near Llanwrthwl on 4 June; MEIRIONNYDD: the Broadwater on 13 Nov.; CAERNARFON: at Crccieth, Tremadog, Caernarfon, Great Orme (max. three), Little Orme (max. four), Rhos Point (max. four) and Penrhyn Bay in first-winter period; seven on Bardsey

between 14 Mar. and 28 May; 13 on Bardsey between 23 Aug. and 3 Nov.; up to three on the Great Orme, and singles at Little Orme, Penrhyn Bay, Caernarfon, Morfa Nefyn, Tudweiliog, Rhiw and Edern in the second winter period; ANGLESEY: Point Lynas on 12 Feb.; RSPB South Stack on 20 Mar. and 14 Apr.; Cemlyn on 30 Oct.; two at RSPB South Stack on 27 Nov. and one on 3 Dec.; Penrhos CP on 15 Dec.; DENBIGH: at Rhos-on-Sea from 23 Jan. and 12 Mar. (also at Rhos Point, Caernarfon); two in the Kinnel Bay/Horton's Nose area on 26-27 Nov.; FLINT: Garden City on 7 Apr.; Rhyl on 27 Nov.; St Asaph on 17 and 30 Dec.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

(C) A numerous breeding species in deciduous woodland and ffridd in many parts of upland Wales. Locally common elsewhere; scarce on Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Wales Green listed.

Although the Breeding Bird Survey index has dropped back a little in the last few years, the long-term trend is positive, 33% higher than its 1995 level.

Selected breeding counts: E.GLAMORGAN: six nests at five sites, possibly bred at 10 other locations; GOWER: at Cwm Clydach Study Area, three nests fledged 14 young: 4.7 per box (cf. 6 per box in 2015); CARMARTHEN: of 18 nests monitored in the northeast of the vice-county, 17 were successful and the outcome of the other is unknown; CAERNARFON: bred at six sites; DENBIGH: ten confirmed breeding records; FLINT: seven confirmed breeding.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

CREC YR EITHIN

(C) Summer breeding visitor; now predominantly a species of upland areas. Declining. Wales Red listed.

Breeding: GWENT: two pairs on The Bloreng; single pairs on Sugar Loaf and Mynydd Llangatwg; E.GLAMORGAN: pairs in Cwm Cadlan and Mynydd Bach-Maested; breeding season records from four other sites; GOWER: fledged brood at Cwm Nant y Fedw; in suitable habitat at two other sites; CARMARTHEN: two singing males at Tan Lan Fawr and one at Banc Bwlchdrebannau; fledged young seen above Llyn Brianne; CEREDIGION: 11 singing at Cwm Breifi; 18 in the Camddwr/Soar y Mynydd area; four at Cwm Berwyn on 9 June; BRECON: survey of SE Elenydd in late May found 53 males/pairs on territory across 51 whole or part 1km squares; at least 16 territories found elsewhere;

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	836	784
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%
No of 1km squares	460	414

MONTGOMERY: bred at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and Llangynog; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Llyn Arenig Fach; males/pairs at eight other sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Llyn Lockwood and Cwm Eigiau; pairs or song at seven other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Moel Arthur; FLINT: no confirmed breeding; four at Penycloddiau on 30 May but no records in June.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(C) Breeding resident, locally common in coastal areas and spreading inland. Wales Green listed.

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales equalled its previous high in 2016, completing the recovery

from a sharp decline during 2009-13, at least partly a result of two consecutive cold winters. The index

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	10 April	NWR Redhouse Barns		26 Sept.	Gwern Du
E.GLAMORGAN	4 April	Cardiff Bay Wetlands		14 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	5 April	Crymlyn Burrows		28 Aug.	Overton
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Abergorlech and Pâl y Cwrt		27 July	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	5 April	Tycannol		12 Oct.	Carningli
CEREDIGION	9 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		26 Oct.	Tanybwlic
BRECON	4 April	Mynydd Illtyd		10 Sept.	Crai
MONTGOMERY	7 April	Dolydd Hafren		18 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	17 April	Penrhyndeudraeth		13 Sept.	Ynysfor
CAERNARFON	9 April	Great Orme		8 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	16 April	Alaw estuary		4 Aug.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	13 April	at three sites		14 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	9 April	Rhyl		24 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

is now 139% higher than its 1995 level.

Breeding: GWENT: young fledged from three of four nests in the Hafodryns area, and fledged young seen at four other sites; probably bred at eight other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 16 sites; pairs in suitable habitat at a further 41 sites; GOWER: 54 pairs bred at 39 sites, 38 pairs probably bred at 33 sites and 12 pairs possibly bred at 10 sites; CARMARTHEN: at least six pairs bred at Pembrey Burrows; 13 pairs at nine other sites; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from 35 1km squares; CEREDIGION: 11 pairs bred at five sites; BRECON: survey of SE Elenydd found 28 territories; at least 61 elsewhere; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at six sites; probably bred at 19 sites; possibly bred at 21 sites; CAERNARFON: confirmed or probable breeding at 30+ sites; ten pairs on Bardsey fledged 52 young; Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>		<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	27 March	NWR Uskmouth		15 Oct.	NWR Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN	22 April	Ogmore-by-Sea		3 Oct.*	Flat Holm
GOWER	12 May	E. Bryn		8 Oct.	location not provided
CARMARTHEN	9 June	at two sites		10 Oct.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	20 April	Skomer		8 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	23 April	Cwm Brefi		9 June	at two sites
BRECON	14 April	Llangoed Hall		15 Sept.	Gamrhiw
MEIRIONNYDD	21 April	Hafod Uchel, Palé		14 Aug.	Mynydd Nodol
CAERNARFON	3 May	Bardsey and Great Orme		5 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	5 May	The Range		22 Oct.	Alaw est.
DENBIGH	21 April	Pensarn		13 Aug.	Mynydd Hiraethog
FLINT	23 April	Gronant		6 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

*E.GLAMORGAN: excludes a record from Sker, photographed on 5 Dec. and reported again on 7th, which is the latest ever record in the vice-county.

ANGLESEY: four pairs at Cemlyn raised at least 14 young; pairs bred at eight other sites; DENBIGH: 14 records of confirmed breeding; FLINT: eight records of confirmed breeding.

Passage (max. counts where provided): GWENT: eight at Hafod Farm, Brynmawr, on 24 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Kenfig NNR on 4 Sept., and 17 here on 11 Oct.; BRECON: 20 at Rhossili/The Worm on 18 Sept.; 20 at The Vile, Rhossili, on 8 Oct.; PEMBROKE: max. count 22 (location not given); BRECON: 17 at Y Gamrhiw on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 35 on Bardsey on 7 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 15 at Newborough Warren on 15 Oct.

	2015	2016	WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> GARN (C) Summer visitor and passage migrant. Locally common, favouring upland areas with sheep-grazed turf. Wales Green listed.	TINWEN Y
No of BirdTrack records	2252	2560		
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%		
No of 1km squares	781	838		

A welcome 12% increase on the 2015 record low point in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, but the index remains 21% below its 1995 level.

GWENT: fledged young on Mynydd Byrgwm and Mynydd Llangatwg; birds may have bred on Sugar Loaf and The Bloreng; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed breeding at four sites; nine other pairs in suitable habitat; GOWER: nine pairs bred at six sites; present at one other site; CARMARTHEN: brood at Waun-gron, Rhosaman; fledged juvenile at Burry Port on 5 July; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from 10 1km squares in suitable habitat; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 35 sites, confirmed at nine; BRECON: survey of SE Elenydd found 45 males/pairs in late May; eight territories around Blaen Dyfryn Cwannon and Ystrad Quarries; CAERNARFON: 28 pairs raised at least 31 young on Bardsey, a poor result; ANGLESEY: pair bred at Point Lynas; DENBIGH: no confirmed breeding records; FLINT: bred at Garth, Cilcain.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

Passage counts (10+): GWENT: 15 at Trefil on 17 Apr.; E.GLAMORGAN: 28 at Sker Farm on 25 Apr.; GOWER: 11 at Tankeylake Moor on 27 Mar.; 10 at Rhossili on 15 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Garreg Lwyd on 13 Apr.; PEMBROKE: 139 on Skomer on 20 Apr.; 40 at Pencarnan on 20 Apr.; CEREDIGION: 20 at Llanrhystud on 23 Mar.; 30 at the Leri on 25 Mar.; 25 at Llanon on 30 Mar.; CAERNARFON: 50 on the Great Orme on 21 Apr.; ANGLESEY: 33 at RSPB South Stack on 15 Apr.; 30 at Cemlyn on 5 May; DENBIGH: 54 at RSPB Conwy on 12 Apr.

Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *leucorhoa*: GOWER: two at Wernffrwd on 24 Apr.; male at Jersey Marine on 2 Oct.; CEREDIGION: the majority of those on the coast in late April were Greenland race; BRECON: four at Nant Cnewr Fach on 16 Apr.; female high on Fan Hir ridge on 27 Oct.; CAERNARFON: small passage on the Great Orme between 19 Apr. and 8 May, peaking at five on the last date; six at Morfa Conwy on 4 May, one here on 13th; ANGLESEY: one at Valley on 3 May; one at RSPB South Stack on 5 May; DENBIGH: 14 at Kinmel Bay on 5 May; FLINT: one at Gronant on 28 Apr.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1307	1312
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%
No of 1km squares	551	507

(C) Abundant breeding resident. Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

Although 2016 wasn't the highest individual year of the Breeding Bird Survey index, the trend reached a new peak, 34% above its 1995 level.

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	23 March	West Pill		19 Oct.	NWR Goldcliff
E GLAMORGAN	15 March	Sker Point		5 Nov.	Cardiff Bay and Penarth Marina
GOWER	18 March	Oxwich and Crofty		25 Oct.	Whiteford Point
CARMARTHEN	25 March	at three sites		7 Nov.	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	12 March	Strumble Head		31 Oct.	Landshipping and Skokholm
CEREDIGION	13 March	Tanybwllch		1 Nov.	Tanybwllch
BRECON	23 March	Dan-yr-Ogof caves		11 Oct.	Cwm Llia
MONTGOMERY	23 March	Dolydd Hafren		3 Oct.	Llandinam Moor
MEIRIONNYDD	25 March	Aberdysynni		29 Oct.	Talsarnau
CAERNARFON	12 March	Bardsey		26 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	17 March	RSPB South Stack		24 Oct.	Breakwater CP
DENBIGH	26 March	RSPB Conwy		11 Oct.	Llanarmon-yn-Ial
FLINT	25 March	Rhyl		4 Oct.	Gronant

Notable counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct.; 21 at Kenfig NNR on 5 Nov.; 15 at Forest Farm NR on 1 Dec.; GOWER: 20 at The Vile, Rhossili, on 8 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 22 territories at Penclacwydd in the breeding season; 18 at Penlan Uchaf on 25 Feb.; BRECON: 15 at Tregoyd on 29 Nov.; 15 at Llangorse Lake on 30 Nov.; CAERNARFON 15 at Morfa Aberech on 9 Oct. were presumed migrants; autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 30 on 11 Oct.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

(C) Resident, breeding throughout Wales in all counties. Not ubiquitous, however, and absent from many upland settlements. Wales Amber listed.

Until 2010, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales had shown sustained growth, in stark contrast to the UK index, since when the trend has fallen a little. Nonetheless, it remains 79% higher than in 1995.

Large counts (70+) include: E.GLAMORGAN: 70 in a Fairwater garden in Aug.; GOWER: c.120 near Coed Hirwaun on 20 July; c.80 at Margam Park on 24 July and 28 Aug.; c.100 at the Sandfields Estate on 30 July; CAERNARFON: 70 at Morfa Aber on 16 Aug.; 80 at Hafod Lane, Bangor, in Oct.; DENBIGH: 150+ at Towyn in Jan., 120 here in Sept. and 200+ on a number of dates from 19 Oct. to 24 Dec.; FLINT: 110+ near Rhyl on 1 Aug.

	2015	2016		
No of BirdTrack records	7401	7814		
% of BirdTrack lists	45%	42%		
No of 1km squares	1501	1404		

(C) Breeding resident in small numbers with a patchy distribution. Absent from most western areas. Declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

Precious few breeding records, but small, isolated populations seem to hang on in several counties, particularly in the north.

GWENT: one unsuccessful breeding pair at the long-established nestbox colony at Porton; CARMARTHEN: up to three at Dryslwyn Farm from 11 Jan. to 5 April; four at Llanarthne on 4 Feb.; BRECON: one at feeders in Gartbrengy during the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch on 30 Jan., and here again on 12-13 June, then three during Nov. including at least one juvenile; one at garden feeders in Llanwrthwl on 12 Oct. was the first here for more than 15 years; MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5878	6358
% of BirdTrack lists	35%	34%
No of 1km squares	1149	1171

on 10 Jan., 24 July and 18 Dec.; three at Pentre'r Bierdd on 15 May; two at Pwll Penarth on 12 Apr.; six at Coedway on 2 Apr.; at Churchstoke in May; CAERNARFON: two at the Little Orme on 22 Oct.; one on Bardsey on six dates in May and 3 June, two here on 13 May; ANGLESEY: two pairs bred near Bryngwran, where a party of three in late May included a juvenile; DENBIGH: eight at Trevalyn Meadows on 9 Feb.; three near Horseman's Green on 8 May; eight near Ruabon on 13 May; other records of up to seven birds; FLINT: regularly seen in a garden at Cilcain; three near Hawarden airport; brood of seven nestlings ringed at Sandycroft on 1 June.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

(B) *A passage migrant in decreasingly small numbers, and now sporadic breeding bird. Wales Red listed.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	41	31
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	24	23

dwindling Wye valley population; MONTGOMERY: probably bred at Dolydd Hafren.

Breeding: GWENT: no confirmed breeding but two in suitable habitat at Llandenny on 26 May, and two on 27 June in suitable habitat; juvenile with three adults at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 July; BRECON: Aug. records at Llangorse might have included families from the Passage: GWENT: 25 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 30 July, and 27 on 3 Aug.; 24 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 24 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: six at Cardiff Bay on 15 Aug.; five at Lavernock Point on 14 Sept.; BRECON: eight at Brechfa Pool on 15 Aug., and six here on 29th; FLINT: five at Shotwick Fields on 1 Aug.; 10 at RSPB Point of Ayr on 20 Aug.

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:
Records of races included:

***M. f. flava* - Blue-headed Wagtail**

GWENT: male at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 24 Apr.; CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 5 May; female on 8 May, joined by a second on 9-10 May; one thought to be a hybrid *flava* x *flavissima* ('Channel' form) at Morfa Conwy on 8 May; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 6 May, two here on 8-9 May and one on 14th; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy from 27 Apr. to 5 May.

M.f.thunbergi - Grey-headed Wagtail.

WRP species. 17 previous records.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	155	220
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	58	59

ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 9-10 May.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* S I G L E N SITRAIDD

(A) Rare but increasing vagrant, on WRP list. Eight previous records.

CAERNARFON: first-winter on Bardsey on 17 Aug.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

(C) Locally common breeding resident, mainly along fast-flowing streams in all mainland counties of Wales. Increasing but very scarce on Anglesey. Most move away from hills in the autumn and either

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	15 April	NWR Goldcliff	10 Oct.	NWR Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN	20 April	Cardiff Bay & Pant yr Awel	29 Sept.	Portobello, Ogmores
GOWER	19 April	Staffal Haegr	25 Sept.	Port Eynon Point
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Penclacwydd		
PEMBROKE	14 April	Llanddewi Velfrey	11 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	20 April	Cors Caron		
BRECON	13 April	Llangorse	14 Sept.	Brechfa Pool
MONTGOMERY	10 April	Dolydd Hafren	1 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	12 May	Cwm Hirnant (only record in 2016)		
CAERNARFON	13 April	Bardsey	21 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	19 April	Cemlyn	17 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	3 April	RSPB Conwy	16 July	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	20 April	Rhuddlan	20 Aug.	RSPB Point of Ayr

emigrate or frequent sites on lower ground. Wales Amber listed.

GWENT: evidence of breeding from all corners of the vice-county; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 12 sites and probably at 17 more; GOWER: bred at 36 sites and probably at a further three; PEMBROKE: recorded in 48 1km squares, with breeding evidence from at least four; BRECON: breeding was widespread; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at five sites, and possibly at another 26; CAERNARFON: bred at eight sites; ANGLESEY: four in Llangefni Dingle on 23 June probably bred here.

Counts (10+ birds): GWENT: eight records of more than 10 at Peterstone Wentlooge, including 23 on 8 Sept. and 25 on 10 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: in Cardiff Bay: nine on 24 Aug., 28 on 14 Sept. and 19 on 16 Sept.; BRECON: up to eight at Brecon WTW in Jan.-Feb.; 20 by the R.Usk at Brecon on 5 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey had a good autumn passage, with peak counts of 23 on 10 Sept. and a new island record of 69 on 7 Sept.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba***SIGLEN FRAITH**

(C) A common and widespread breeding resident in many habitats. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. The continental race, White Wagtail, *M.a.alba*, is a regular passage migrant, occasionally breeding. Wales Green listed.

The highest counts (100+) of *yarrelli*: GWENT: 100 to roost at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 10 Oct.; counts of up to 135 on coastal passage in Sept. and early Oct. were not identified to sub-species level; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Canton on 13 Oct.; 500 roosting in Cardiff city centre on 14 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 128 at Teifi marshes on 22 Mar.; CEREDIGION: roost in Aberystwyth held up to 150 birds in Jan., 225 in Feb., 150 in March and 130 in Dec.; BRECON: 102 fed at Llangorse Lake on 14 Apr., roosts here of 110+ on 11 Oct. and 100 on 1 Nov.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2105	2095
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	10%
No of 1km squares	746	715

***M.a. alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**

GWENT: 45 records from coastal wetlands; max. counts of 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) and Peterstone Wentlooge on 16 Apr.; 16 at NWR (Goldcliff) on 23 Apr., 10 here on 27 Aug. and up to six until the last on 18 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 35 reports from nine locations, max. counts of 15 at Ogmore estuary on 15 Apr.; 20 at Cardiff Bay on 26 Apr.; just six autumn records of one or two; GOWER: 1-2 daily at three sites between 28 Mar. and 9 May; three at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 17 Aug.; three at Port Eynon Point on 25 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 67 on the mainland in spring (including Teifi Marshes below); 48 on Skokholm in spring (max. count of nine on 21 Apr.); 43 on Skokholm and 17 elsewhere in autumn; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 40 at Teifi Marshes on 12 Apr., 100 roosted here on 19 Apr. and 30 on 23rd; CEREDIGION: max. counts of 18 at Llanrhystud on 12 Apr.; 50 at Llanon on 30 Apr.; no more than two in Sept. and Oct.; BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake on 16 Mar., followed by 44 here between 9 Apr. and 3 May (max. count 11 on 30 Apr.); one at The Cwm for a few days from 2 Apr. and another on 23 Apr.; three singles in autumn; MEIRIONNYDD: 55 at Tywyn on 27 Apr.; 1-2 at three other sites in spring; two at Talsarnau on 19 Sept.; 'quite a few' at Ynys Pool on 30 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn on 14 Apr.; Nant Ffrancon on 23 Apr.; Pen Pyra Farm on 28 Apr.; two at Llanfairfechan on 28 Apr. and 14 June; three on the Conwy estuary on 5 May; spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 40 on 17 Apr., and in autumn 130 here on 4 Sept.; two at Tai Isaf on 11 Sept. and three on 15 Sept.; one at Mynydd Mawr on 9 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 3 Apr.; 15 on the Alaw estuary and 11 at Carmel Head on 9 Apr.; 22 at Henborth, Cemlyn, on 17 Apr.; 39 at Llyn Maelog on 2 May; 50 at Valley on 5 May; four at Cemlyn in autumn; DENBIGH: present almost daily at RSPB Conwy between 28 Mar. and 2 May (max. counts of just 10, on 30 Apr. and 2 May, is poor by its standards) and on ten dates between 25 Aug. and 29 Sept.; FLINT: records at Rhyl, Rhuddlan and Gronant dunes between 21 and 29 Apr. (max. count 110+ at Gronant on 21st).

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	5433	5815
% of BirdTrack lists	32%	30%
No of 1km squares	1328	1275

***M.a.personata* (Masked Wagtail / Siglen Fygydog)**

PEMBROKE: one at Camrose was well-watched between 29 Nov. and 26 Dec. The record remains in circulation with the British Birds Rarities Committee, and is potentially the first record of this race in Britain.

(A) *A scarce autumn passage migrant.*

E GLAMORGAN: one at Nash Point on 1-7 Dec.; GOWER: one at Whiteford Point on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles over Bardsey on 9 and 12 Oct., two here on 30 Oct.; two at Fort Belan on 8 Oct.; singles on the Great Orme on 13 and 31 Oct.

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewski*

CORHEDYDD BLYTH

(A) *A rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Two previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 11 May is the first to be recorded in Britain in spring.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

(C) *A widely distributed and locally numerous summer visitor. Passage migrant in fairly small numbers, most marked on the south coast in autumn. Wales Amber listed.*

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been showing a slow decline since late in the last century, and currently lies 12% below its 1995 level.

Breeding: GWENT: singing or displaying males at many sites, but evidence of breeding in only two or three; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Coed Craig Ruperra and Rudry Common, and probably at nine other sites; GOWER: probably bred at six sites and present at another six; BRECON: 40 territories south of the Epynt, and a further 20 during a survey of 51 whole or part 1km squares of the SE Elenydd; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at five sites, with probable breeding at 11 others; CAERNARFON: 10 singing east of Llyn Dinas on 3 June, where a family party was seen on 1 July; families also noted at Clogwynyreryr and near Llyn Bodgynydd; DENBIGH: bred in Ceiriog Forest; 1-2 birds at 20 locations; four at Llyn Brenig on 30 May.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	8	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	6	9

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

(C) *A widespread and numerous breeding species, especially on moorland. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds are summer visitors. Wales Amber listed.*

Following a dip in the Breeding Bird Survey index during the last decade, Meadow Pipits have made a partial recovery to their previous high, and the index now lies 7% above its 1995 level.

Selected breeding records: GWENT: of 11 nests studied on Cefn Crib moorland, nine fledged 29 young; 10 nests fledged 23 young on Mynydd Byrgwm; five nests fledged 13 young on Mynydd Llanhilleth. These results were much better than those in 2015; PEMBROKE: 115 breeding pairs mapped on Skomer; BRECON: the SE Elenydd breeding survey found an average density of 50.1 birds per square km; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey 93 singing/displaying males was fewer than 2015 but 29.2% above the 2007-16 mean, at least 53 young fledged.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	418	358
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%
No of 1km squares	229	211

High counts (100+): GWENT: counts at Peterstone



Tree Pipit (Bob Garrett)

Wentlooge totalled 1671 in Sept., 1030 in Oct., with 350 and 120 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in the same months; E.GLAMORGAN: 130 over Cardiff Bay on 27 Sept.; 205 at Dunraven on 6 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 200 on Skomer on 2 Oct.; BRECON: 98 along Offa's Dyke between Hay Bluff and Capel-y-ffin on 16 May; 157, mostly on newly-cut bracken slopes, around Mynydd Illtyd on 21 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: flocks present on most days from late July to Sept. in the Cwm Hirnant road area, with up to 100 on some mornings; 100 near Pennal, on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: monthly totals on Bardsey: 705 in March, 231 in April, 171 in Sept. and 523 in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 200+ on The Range on 25 Mar.; DENBIGH: 100+ at

Earliest and latest reports in each vice-county:

	<i>Earliest</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Latest</i>	<i>Site</i>
GWENT	7 April	Wentwood	2 Oct.	Gwern Ddu
E.GLAMORGAN	10 April	Taf Bargoed Valley	14 Sept.*	at three sites
GOWER	17 April	at four sites	11 Sept.	Rhossili
CARMARTHEN	28 May	Mynydd Pencarreg	27 Aug.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	13 April	Stackpole Warren	8 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	9 April	Coed Dolgoed		
BRECON	4 April	The Cwm	19 July	at two sites
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Llanidloes		
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April	Cwm Mynach, Llanelltyd	22 June	Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON	24 March	Great Orme	20 Oct.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	23 April	Carmel Head	7 Sept.	Alaw estuary
DENBIGH	15 April	Nant-y-Glyn	16 Aug.	Llyn Brenig
FLINT	21 April	Gronant		

*E.GLAMORGAN: also one at Nash Point on 1-7 Dec.

Llangwyfan on 10 Oct.; 100+ near Wrexham on 17 Dec.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

(C) A breeding resident of rocky coastlines in all coastal counties except Flintshire and Gwent. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	4035	3869
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	19%
No of 1km squares	1213	1115

Selected breeding records: GWENT: possibly bred on Denny Island; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at East Aberthaw and Swanbridge, and probably at three sites on the Heritage Coast.; GOWER: bred at four sites, with records from 16; CARMARTHEN: bred at Pembrey and Burry Port Harbours; present at Kidwelly Quay and Pwll; PEMBROKE: recorded in 68 1km squares with breeding evidence from 16; CAERNARFON: 40 singing on Bardsey, and at least 43 fledged young; bred at Caernarfon foreshore and Foryd, and probably at Tudweiliog, Porth Neigwl and the Little Orme; ANGLESEY: bred at four sites; at least five pairs on Puffin Island on 23 June; DENBIGH: bred at Colwyn Bay.

Birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *littoralis*: GWENT: one at Peterstone Wentlooge on 22 Mar.; GOWER: two at Neath Abbey saltmarsh on 14 Jan.; two at Wernffrwd on 10 Mar.; PEMBROKE: one at Stack Rocks on 28 Mar.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey: two on 12 Mar., singles on 6 Apr., 26 Sept. and 25 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Red Wharf Bay on 1 Mar.; DENBIGH: two at Kinmel Bay on 14 Feb.; one at Fenn's Moss on 31 Mar.

Counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 10+ at Southerndown on 18 Feb.; GOWER: 13 at the Port Eynon beach car park on 16 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 14 at Newgale on 23 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 82 on Bardsey on 20 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 30 at Soldier's Point on 20 Oct.; 15 at Red Wharf Bay on 19 Nov.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

(B) A winter visitor in small numbers, mainly recorded in coastal areas but also, less frequently inland. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1275	1524
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%
No of 1km squares	379	381

GWENT: many sightings at Peterstone Wentlooge from Jan. to March: max. count of six on 10-14 Feb. and eight on 11 Mar., with the last spring sighting of three on 10 Apr.; one at Collister Pill on 12 Feb.; five at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 28 Feb.; one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4-13 Nov.; one at Peterstone Wentlooge on 16-23 Nov., at least four here on 16 Dec. and nine on 17th; E.GLAMORGAN: one on the Ogmore estuary on 14-17 Jan., three here on 5 Mar. and singles on 29 Nov. and 1 Dec.; singles at Aberthaw on 10 Mar., 14 and 22 Nov. and 1 Dec.; one at Rhymney Great Wharf on 17 Nov.; one at Llwyn-onn Res. on 5 Dec.; GOWER: one at Dalton's Point on 2 Jan.; one at Crofty on 10 Feb.; two at Neath Abbey saltings on 5 Mar.; one at Wernffrwd on 10-11 Mar.; one at Cwm Ivy Marsh on 29 Mar.; CARMARTHEN: one at Llanelli on 24 Feb.; singles at Penclacwydd on 5 and 13 Nov. and 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: seven at Newgale on 26 Nov. and 13 Dec.; two at West Williamson on 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two on the Teifi estuary on 17 and 22 Dec.; CEREDIGION: two on the R.Clettwr on 5 Jan., one on 6 Nov., three on 7 Nov. and one on 3 Dec.; singles at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15 Jan., 23 Mar., 11 Apr., 16 and 18 Nov., and two on 17 Dec.; three at Cors Caron

on 19 Jan. with singles here on 12, 14 and 27 Feb., 30 Mar., 3 Apr., 3 and 30 Dec.; one at Llanrhystud on 10 Apr.; two on the R.Leri on 20 Nov.; CAERNARFON: one at the mouth of the R.Wen on 22 Jan.; ANGLESEY: one at Inland Sea on 16 Jan.; one at Traeth Dulas on 27 Jan.; one at Red Wharf Bay on 1 Mar., 13 and 19 Nov.; one at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 29 Nov. and two on 15 Dec.; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy between 1 Jan. and 6 Apr.; one at Kinnel Bay on 14 Feb.; one at Fenn's Moss on 31 Mar.; one reported at Llyn Brenig on 11 Dec.; FLINT: two at White Sands on 6 Nov.; one at Shotton on 17 Nov.; one at Connah's Quay NR on 12 Dec.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

PINC Y MYNYDD

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	85	164
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	31	53

(C) Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Amber listed.

Notably scarce in most counties.
Large counts (10+) and unseasonal records:

GWENT: 15 in a Llangybi garden in Feb.; BRECON: 20 beneath garden feeders at Aberbran on 17 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 36+ at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 3 Apr.; some birds lingered into spring with records from Llanfair Caereinion on 1 May and near Llanidloes on 22 May; 75+ at Caersws on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 19 May was the latest ever spring record for the island; regular records here in Oct. and Nov.: max. count of 13 on 21 Oct.; DENBIGH: max. count of 23 at Garth, Trevor Hall, on 28 Mar.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

(C) An abundant resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

Last year's Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales took a nose-dive, down 13% in just one year, to the lowest point ever recorded after 20 years of stability. Let's hope this is a temporary blip.

Breeding: PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in 73 1km squares.

Flocks (150+): GWENT: 200 from Pentre-poeth Road on 28 Oct.; max. count of 2340 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 1 Nov., following 767 on 30 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 203 at Dunraven on 6 Oct.; 200 at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct., then 3000 here on 30 Oct., 4000 on 1 Nov. and 300 on 25 Nov.; 155 at Cardiff Bay barrage on 31 Oct. and 1950 here on 1 Nov.; GOWER: c.720 over Dalton's Point on 2 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 181 at Penlan Uchaf on 22 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1700 over Fishguard on 25 Oct.; 300 over Pen Anglas on 29 Oct.; BRECON: 180 on a wildbird crop planted under Glastir at Llanbeilun, Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: 200+ at Dolydd Hafren on 27 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 347 at Lôn Las, Rhiw, on 30 Oct.; autumn passage peak on Bardsey was 1157 on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 450 over RSPB South Stack in half an hour on 2 Nov.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	115	118
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	65	55

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
GYLFINBRAFF

(C) Resident in small numbers in lowland areas, principally in east Wales and in the Dolgellau area of Meirionnydd. Formerly scarcer. Some evidence

of small-scale immigration in winter. Wales Amber listed.

Breeding season (April to June): GWENT: four nests found at Highmeadow Woods; up to six at Minnetts Wood in March-June; BRECON: female at The Cwm on 21-27 June; male in a Caehopkin garden on 22

June; MONTGOMERY: one in a garden near Dolanog feeding on Wych Elm in late May-mid June; one in a Forge garden in June; MEIRIONNYDD: two in St Mary’s Churchyard, Dolgellau, on 22 June; one at Coed Crafnant on 11 June; CAERNARFON: one at Glantraeth, Bangor, on 6 May; two at Llanbedr-y-Cennin on 15 May; one at Betws-y-Coed on 9 June; DENBIGH: at Coed Hafod on 14 May.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	8635	8297
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	44%
No of 1km squares	1852	1671

All other records: GWENT: max. count of 32 near Chepstow, but ratio of ringed to unringed birds suggests 60-80 birds; up to three at Gwern Ddu in Feb.-April; singles at Wyndcliff, Penallt, Wetmeadow Wood, Howick and Dingestow Court; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 1 Feb.; one at Fforestganol on 25 and 28 Feb.; two at Lavernock Point on 8 Oct. and one here on 12 Oct.; one at Rudry Common on 11 Nov.; GOWER: one in a Pitton garden on 12 Apr.; MONTGOMERY: up to three in Powis Castle car park from 1 Jan. to 27 Mar., then 15 here on 18-31 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: flock at Llanelltyd Churchyard, Dolgellau, in Jan. to March (max. count 11 on 10 Jan.); one at Penrhyndeudraeth on 10 Feb.; CAERNARFON: regular at Llanbedr-y-Cennin until 31 Mar. and again from 10 Nov. (max. counts of 27 on 17 Jan. and 12 on 4 Dec.); also regular at Caerhun (max. count six on 3 Dec.); one at NWWT Spinnies from 24 Jan. to 27 Feb.; ANGLESEY: one at garden feeders in Cemaes Bay on 29 and 30 Dec.; DENBIGH: highest number of records since 2005 with sightings at six locations: 1-2 at a site in the Vale of Clwyd from 1 Jan. to 10 Feb. and 26-28 Dec.; six at Tal-y-cafn on 3 Dec.; also at three sites in Clocaenog Forest and Cyffylliog.

Ringling: GWENT: Wye Valley Hawfinch project caught 37 near Monmouth, 24 at Tintern and 68 at



Hawfinch (Henry Cook)

Chepstow. Of these 21 had been ringed in previous years.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	101	117
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	40	30

listed.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **COCH Y BERLLAN**
(D) A fairly numerous resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands, other than in some areas of recent afforestation. Unusual on the islands. Wales Red

Whereas the UK Breeding Bird Survey trend has reached its highest ever level, it has remained stable in Wales for the last decade.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: evidence at 26 locations but confirmed at only one; GOWER: bred at eight sites; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in 14 1km squares. BRECON: 23 pairs at 12 locations.

Large counts (10+): GWENT: 14 at Caldicot Castle in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Garwnant on 23 Oct.; 10 at Peterston-upon-Ely on 13 Nov.; 13 at Caerlan Farm during the year; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Penclacwydd in Jan.; BRECON: 10 on Mynydd Illtyd in autumn; ANGLESEY: 11 at Ger-y-parc, Brynteg, on 31 Dec. (reported as becoming more abundant on the island); DENBIGH: max. count 14 in Clocaenog Forest on 24 Feb.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

LLINOS WERDD

(C) Resident, formerly common but population has declined following outbreak of Trichomonosis. Wales Amber listed.

Several vice-county recorders commented on the lack of records submitted in 2016, and this is reflected in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which reached a new low in 2016, 52% below its 1995 level.

Highest counts (40+): GWENT 140 roosted at Black Rock, Sudbrook, on 23 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 50 at Ogmere Castle on 3 Sept.; 35 at Lavernock Point on 4 Sept.; 30+ at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 8 Dec.; GOWER: 244 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR (cf. 468 in 2015), including 94 on 11 Sept. attracted by the nearby feeding station; CARMARTHEN: 45 at Pembrey Burrows on 8 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 60+ at Dolydd Hafren on 10 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 65 in Llandudno town centre on 6 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 80 at Holyhead on 3 Jan.; 60 over RSPB South Stack in half an hour on 2 Nov.; DENBIGH: 40 on garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, on 4 Aug.; FLINT: max. count 60 in Bagillt on 14 Jan.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2589	2568
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%
No of 1km squares	739	679

LINNET *Linaria cannabina*

LLINOS

(C) Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

Having experienced an increase in the first decade of the Breeding Bird Survey and a dip in the second, the survey's third decade begins with the index for Wales back at its 1995 level.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: evidence at 19 locations, confirmed at four; GOWER: bred at 11 sites and probably at a further 10; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in 29 1km squares; BRECON: 24 pairs at 15

locations; CAERNARFON: population on Bardsey fell to 30 pairs, 27% down on 2015.

Counts (100+): GWENT: 250 in the Monnow Valley on 9 Sept.; 120 with Goldfinches at Llangybi in late

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	3610	3443
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	18%
No of 1km squares	708	605

Sept.-Oct.; 130 'on the coast' on 10 Sept., rising to min. 949 on 1 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 140+ at Ty'n-y-caeau farm on 12 Mar.; 160 at Dunraven on 11 Apr. and 386 here on 6 Oct.; 200 at Vaindre Vawr, St Mellons, on 29 Sept.; 200 at Nash Valley on 2 Oct.; 125 at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct. and 200

here on 1 Nov.; 359 at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 1 Nov.; 100 at Island Farm, Bridgend, on 28 Dec.; GOWER: c.370 at Weobley Saltings on 15 Sept.; 170 at Wernffrwd on 16 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 750 at New Shipping on 17 Jan.; 100 Castlemartin Corse on 10 and 17 Sept.; 280 on Skomer on 15 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Dolyrychain on 19 Apr.; 120 at Llanrhystud on 24 Aug.; 140 along the R.Leri on 15 Sept.; BRECON: 200 attracted to mustard seed within a Glastir wildbird cover crop in Pennorth on 5 Jan.; 250 in oilseed rape stubble in Pennorth on 27 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at Cefn Mawr on 10 Dec.; CAERNARFON: spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 343 on 15 Mar. and a strong autumn passage included 415 on 27 Aug. and 353 on 2 Sept.; on the mainland, 100+ at Glan-y-môr Elias on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 on stubble at Din Lligwy on 23 Jan.; 120 on Llanddona beach on 3 July; 125 near the R.Crigyll on 2 Aug.; FLINT: counts exceeding 100 from Connah's Quay NR, Gronant, RSPB Point of Ayr, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Talacre. Max. count of 180 at Connah's Quay NR on 26 and 28 Dec.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2988	3193
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	16%
No of 1km squares	839	780

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD
(A) Scarce breeding species, now apparently restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire; scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in very small

numbers. Wales Amber listed.

Breeding area: CAERNARFON: recorded in Nant Ffrancon from 30 Mar., peaking at 8+ on 19 Apr. and 5 May. Five circled and called over Rachub quarry on 10 April. No indications of breeding, but this is not surprising without intensive study.

Other records: CAERNARFON: one at Little Orme/Penrhyn Bay on 1-27 Jan.; possibly same at Rhos Point on 25 Feb.; three at Foryd on 10 Feb.; one north over Bardsey on 3 Apr.; ANGLESEY: four in a Linnet flock at RSPB South Stack on 12 Feb. and 5 Mar.; DENBIGH: records from RSPB Conwy, Kinmel Bay and Rhos-on-Sea (see Caernarfon); max. count 25+ at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay, on 1 Feb.; FLINT: flocks of 20+ at Connah's Quay NR throughout the winter, max. count 120 on 27 Nov.; small numbers at Rhyl, Talacre and RSPB Point of Ayr, including two at Gronant dunes on 31 July.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

(C) Partial migrant, widely distributed as a breeding bird but probably declining. Passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. Wales Amber listed.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: breeding suspected in Maesteg and Bridgend; GOWER: probably bred at Brynlllefrith Plantation; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in one 1km square; BRECON: 27 pairs at 19 locations, but only two in a survey of ffridd land on SE Elenydd; MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed/probable breeding at three sites, possibly at another 12; CAERNARFON: territories recorded at three sites, and

probably bred at two other sites; ANGLESEY: probably bred at five sites; DENBIGH: recorded singing at several localities; recently fledged young on Ruabon Mountain in July.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	170	140
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	28	21

Nov.; 25 at Rudry Common on 11 Nov. and 15 here on 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 30 near Fishguard on 3 May; CEREDIGION: frequent in wetter scrubby areas (e.g. Cors Caron, Cors Fochno and RSPB Ynys-hir) and from young conifer plantations in the uplands; BRECON: 20 at Gamrhiw on 15 Sept.; 20 at The Cwm on 7 Oct. and 29 Dec.; 60 at Nantllanerch, Aberystwyth, on 24 Oct.; 20 on Mynydd Illtyd on 25 Oct.; 11 at Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre on 6 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 2 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 in a clear fell area at Cae Howel, Berwyn, on 11 Mar.; CAERNARFON: 30 on the Great Orme on 7 and 8 May; 47 on Bardsey on 9 May; ANGLESEY: 23 at RSPB South Stack on 9 May; 50 at Cors Erddreiniog on 16 Sept.; 25 in Newborough Forest on 8 Dec.; DENBIGH: 15+ at RSPB Conwy on 22 Jan.; 20 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 21 Apr.; 20+ at Ruabon Mountain on 13 Mar.; 30+ at Nant-y-ffrith Res. on 2 Oct.

Large counts (15+): GWENT: 40 in Wentwood on 2 Feb.; 31 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 1 Nov.; 23 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 5 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at Kenfig NNR on 8 Oct.; 15 at Wern Ddu on 30 Oct.; 135 at Rudry Common on 30 Oct.; 50 at Lavernock Point on 1

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	571	612
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%
No of 1km squares	277	280

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* LLINOS BENGOC
(A) Scarce vagrant, on WRP list. 34 previous records.

The WRP is reviewing records of this species, including several records from 2016. Those accepted by the Panel will be published when available.

BRECON: an unsexed first-year was caught and ringed in scrub at Llangasty on 8 November. It was netted on the same morning that several Lesser Redpolls were ringed, all responding to tapes of Redpoll calls.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

(C) An increasing resident species although numbers fluctuate; occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

Breeding: CARMARTHEN: recorded at four potential nesting sites; CAERNARFON: recorded in suitable habitat at seven sites, mostly in and around the Conwy Valley, but birds in the Bryn Llech area of the Migneint on 13 July are notable.

Large counts (25+): GWENT: 35 at Tirpentwys on 11 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 32 at Dunraven on 6 Oct.; 60 at Lavernock Point on 12 Oct.; GOWER: 40 at Cwm Kenfig on 9 Mar.; CEREDIGION: up to 40 at Allt-y-Crib, Talybont, throughout the year; RADNOR: 70 in the Elan Valley in Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 40+ (two flocks of 20+) at the Ceri Ridgeway on 10 Oct.; CAERNARFON: small numbers (max. four on any day) on spring and autumn passage on the Little Orme and Bardsey; DENBIGH: 30 at Penycae on 29 Jan.; 27 at Ruabon Mountain on 15 Mar.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

(C) Resident, summer visitor and passage migrant; possibly winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

Following a sustained rise in the late 1990s, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been fairly stable since the early 2000s, and remains 76% above its 1995 level.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: evidence recorded at 30 sites, confirmed at eight. GOWER: bred at 18 sites; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in 20 1km squares.

Flocks of 100+: GWENT: 116 at Redhouse Barn on 4 Sept., then counts over 100 here on a number of dates from 16 Sept. to 29 Nov., max. 524 on 30 Oct.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	239	149
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%
No of 1km squares	151	105

and 1861 on 1 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 311 at Dunraven on 6 Oct.; up to 160 at Lavernock Point in early Oct., superceded by 2000 here on 30 Oct. and 3000 on 1 Nov.; 254 at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 22 Oct. and 692 here on 1 Nov.; GOWER: c.200 at Jersey Marine on 2 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: c.150 at Pembrey Burrows on 13 Sept.; c.100 at Cefn Sidan on 19 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Haverfordwest on 16 Feb.; 150 near Fishguard on 3 May; 100 at Lydstep on 6 Sept.; BRECON: 150 at Llangasty on 27 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ near Bwlchydhar in late Aug.-early Sept.; CAERNARFON: 207 on Bardsey on 3 Apr.; c.150 on the Great Orme on 25 Aug.; 130 at Eithinog, Bangor, on 20 Sept.; 146 on Bardsey on 9 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 120 at Ger-y-parc, Brynteg, on 7 Sept.; 120 at Mynydd Eilian on 15 Sept.; FLINT: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 1 and 9 Oct.; 100+ at Rhydymwyn on 15 Sept.; 100+ at Rhyl on 11 Sept.; 108 at Rhuddlan on 15 Nov.; 200 at Talacre on 20 Sept.

SERIN *Serinus serinus*

LLINOS FRECH

(A) Scarce vagrant, on WRP list. 28 previous records.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	7026	7819
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	42%
No of 1km squares	1370	1351

PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 26 Oct.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

(C) An increasing breeding species; numerous winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

The success of Siskins as a breeding species continues, with a further increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, now 84% above its 1995 level.

Breeding: E GLAMORGAN: evidence recorded at six sites, confirmed at four; GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh NNR and Pen-y-Cae, and probably at Cwm Farreg; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in two 1km squares; BRECON: 18 pairs at nine locations; CAERNARFON: greatly under-recorded, only proven at Clogwynyrrery; ANGLESEY: bred at Llyn Parc Mawr.

Large counts (60+): GWENT: 65 near Osbaston on 1 Jan.; 70 at Newbridge on 17 Jan.; 70 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 3 Oct., and 106 here on 5 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Parc Penallta on 1 Jan.; 80 at Thornhill on 13 Feb.; 239 at Dunraven on 6 Oct.; 300 at Lavernock Point on 30 Oct. and 200 here on 1

Nov.; CEREDIGION: flocks of 100+ at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cross Inn forest and Coed Maenarthur; BRECON: 100 in Held Wood on 6 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 200+ on feeders at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 21 Mar. and 200+ here on 14 July, the vast majority juveniles; 100 at Llyn Ebyr on 23 Nov.; DENBIGH: 60+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 15 Apr.

Ringling: BRECON: male ringed at Lower Cwmtwrch, on 23 Oct. 2015 was caught at Towcester, Northamptonshire, on 7 Mar. 2016, 196km ENE.; a first-year female ringed at the same site on 25 Mar. 2016 was re-caught at Portlethen, Aberdeenshire, on 4 June 2016, 597km to the north; MONTGOMERY: four ringed at Lake Vyrnwy in late March were subsequently found in Scotland later in the spring.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

(B) Regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	1670	1866
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%
No of 1km squares	560	563

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Porthcawl on 31 Oct.; one at Sker Point on 7 Nov.; one at East Aberthaw and Porthcawl Esplanade on 8 Nov.; GOWER: three at Whiteford Point on 1-23 Jan.; one over Rhossili on 6 Nov.; PEMBROKE: male at Fishguard Harbour

from 25 Oct. to 13 Nov., when depredated, and a female here on 11-13 Nov.; singles on Skomer on 20 Oct. and 7 Nov.; one on Skokholm on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: three at Ynyslas on 22 Nov. increasing to four on 23-25 Nov.; BRECON: one at the Twmpa, Black Mountains, on 10 Nov.; CAERNARFON: singles over Bardsey on 23 and 25 Oct., and two over here on 30 Oct.; one at Morfa Madryn on 20 Nov.; up to three at West Shore, Llandudno, from 4 Nov. into 2017 (also reported at Deganwy); ANGLESEY: one at Soldier's Point from 4 Feb. to 21 Mar., and one here on 3 Nov.; DENBIGH: most records of 1-2; max. counts of five at Pensarn on 9-13 Jan. and at Kinnel Bay on 24 Jan.; FLINT: two at RSPB Point of Ayr on 10 Mar.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

(A) An uncommon but regular passage migrant in small numbers, especially in autumn, and an occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Nash Point on 30 Nov.; GOWER: one at Llanmorlais/Penclawdd on 27 Feb.; one at the Vile, Rhossili, on 15 Sept., and then a flock here from 5 Nov. to 11 Dec. (max. count 15 on 27 Nov.); one at Middleton on 15 Sept.; one at Cwm Ivy Marsh on 19 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one at Dinas Mountain on 7 Oct.; one at St David's Head on 1 Nov.; two at Pen Anglas on 13 Nov.; on Skokholm, 12 birds between 13 and 24 Nov. (max. four on 19th); on Skomer, 13 birds between 24 Sept. and 27 Nov. (max. three on 7 Oct.); CEREDIGION: two at Llanrhystud on 13 Feb.; one at Llanon on 28 Feb., three here on 6 Oct., one on 15 Oct. and two on 30 Oct.; one at New Quay on 30 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD:

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	29	147
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	19	43

one at Tywyn on 5 Sept. is the first confirmed vice-county record since 1997; CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on eight dates between 11 Sept. and 6 Oct., with two on four dates during 1-9 Oct.; five birds (all singles) on the Great Orme between 8 Sept. and 31 Oct.; one at Llanfairfechan on 16 Oct.;

two at Llandudno on 6 Nov.; ANGLESEY: one at Mynydd Bodafon on 11 Sept. and 12 Oct.; two over Cemlyn on 14 Sept., singles here on 13 Oct., 15 Oct. and 18 Nov., five on 13 Nov. and one on 4 Dec.; two on The Range on 14 Sept. and on 5 Oct., one here on 6 Oct., 10 on 7th, up to 19 on 8th, 12 on 9th,



Snow Bunting (Gareth Wyn Williams)

six on 11th, eight on 1 Nov., four on 2nd and two on 29th; two at RSPB South Stack on 2 Nov.; two at Carmel Head on 9 Oct.; one over the Inland Sea on 28 Oct.; one over Llyn Llywenan on 2 Nov.; one at Red Wharf Bay on 13 Nov.; DENBIGH: one at Kinmel Bay on 26 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

BRAS PENDDU

(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. 29 previous records.

PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 24 May.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	52	94
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%
No of 1km squares	17	34

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* BRAS Y GERDDI

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 170 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: one in a Llanelli garden on 12 Sept. was the second vice-county record; PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 16 Aug.; one on Skomer on 8 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three on Bardsey: a male on 15 May, one in the same tree as an Icterine Warbler on 24 Aug., and one on 14-16 Sept.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella***BRAS MELYN***(C) Declining as a resident breeding species over large parts of Wales. Wales Red listed.*

A slight increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales since 2015, but this does little to stem the long-term downward trend, which lies 57% below its 1995 level. The number of BirdTrack records was also down by over a quarter compared to the previous year.

Breeding: GWENT: 14 pairs/birds at 10 locations; E.GLAMORGAN: probable or possible breeding at Bridgend and Gileston; GOWER: no breeding records, but small number of birds scattered across the peninsula; CARMARTHEN: present at Dinas during the breeding season; PEMBROKE: up to four reported from 16 locations, with breeding evidence from just six of these; CEREDIGION: breeding season records from RSPB Ynys-hir, Ystumtuen, Cwm Brefi, Grogwynion, Llanfair Clydogau and Cors Ian; BRECON: 42 territories; CAERNARFON: present at a number of sites but only territorial birds recorded were: three singing south of Dolbenmaen on 17 May; one singing above Llanberis on 1 June and one at Porth Meudwy on 6 June; ANGLESEY: probably bred at two sites and proven at Brynteg.

Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Nash Point on 10 Jan.; 14 at Ty'n-y-caeau Farm on 4 March; 14 at Bridgend on 2 July; 15 at Pant Norton on 24 Aug.; BRECON: 30 in wildbird cover crops of unharvested spring cereals at Pennorth on 8 Jan. and 100 in a similar crop at Llanbeilun on 16 Jan., with 65 still present on 22 Mar. Ringing of 58 birds here by Llangorse Ringing Group recaptured just one bird, suggesting high turnover within flock; up to 80 in a Glastir wildbird cover crop of spring barley and brassicas at Pencaernin in Nov., yet 121 individuals ringed here by Llangorse RG; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at garden feeders in Dyfi Junction on 16 Mar.; ANGLESEY: good counts at Ger-y-parc, Brynteg, through the first winter period, peaking at 64 on 6 Feb.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus***BRAS Y CYRS**

(C) A fairly common resident breeding species, mainly in waterside habitats; evidence of a small autumn emigration. Wales Amber listed.

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	380	281
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%
No of 1km squares	172	151

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell back below its 1995 baseline, as it seems to do every 3-4 years, but the trend over the last 15 years has

been positive, and remains 29% above its start point.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: evidence recorded at 13 sites, confirmed at three; CARMARTHEN: nine territories at Penclacwydd; GOWER: bred at 10 sites and probably at another six; PEMBROKE: evidence recorded in six 1km squares; seven territories on Skokholm; BRECON: 76 territories recorded, incl. 28 in a survey of 51 1km squares (or part squares) of common land in SE Elenydd, but productivity reported to be very low; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records from 19 sites but none confirmed; CAERNARFON: territories at six locations, and birds present at another 20 sites during the breeding season; ANGLESEY: bred at two sites and present at nine others during the breeding season.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 32 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 16 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Cardiff Bay Wetlands on 29 Feb.; GOWER: max. 22 at Crymlyn Burrows on 4 Jan.; 20 at Rhossili on 20 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 22 at Penclacwydd in Feb.; 22 at Machynys on 19 Nov.; 20 at Kidwelly Quay on 29 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Marloes on 15 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 20 at Cross Inn in Dec.; BRECON: 80 in Glastir wild bird cover crop at Pennorth in Jan.; 60 in a similar crop at Llanbeilun; MONTGOMERY: 60+ at Dolydd Hafren on 27 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Cors Bodeilio on 30 June; 25 in Llanndyfnan on 11 Dec.

Ringling: BRECON: 58 ringed by Llangorse RG during Jan. to March including a control from Herefordshire, ringed on 20 Sept. 2014.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

BRAS LLEIAF

(A) *Rare visitor, on WRP list. 27 previous records.*

	2015	2016
No of BirdTrack records	2185	2168
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	11%
No of 1km squares	492	466

GOWER: one caught and ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR on 20 Oct.; PEMBROKE: one on St Ann's Head on 16 April; CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 19 Oct.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

TEWBIG BRONGOCH

(A) *Very rare vagrant, on BBRC list. Three previous records.*

PEMBROKE: a second calendar year at St. David's Head on 21 April.

ESCAPES

The following species were reported to vice-county recorders or listed on BirdTrack

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

ALARCH DDU

MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 20-21 Oct.; FLINT: up to four at various sites in the upper Dee estuary throughout the year.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF

GOWER: two at Llangennith Moor on 8 May.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

GWYDD BENRHESOG

GWENT: one at Gwbert on 13 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 1 Jan.; CARMARTHEN/CEREDIGION: one at Newcastle Emlyn on 12 and 27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one in the Nevern estuary from 16 Aug. to 7 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one at Teifi Marshes from 26 Sept. to 30 Dec.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

ALARCHWYDD

GWENT: one at Parc Bryn Bach in Feb.-March and again in Nov.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

GWYDD YR EIRA

CEREDIGION: one at Ystrad Caron on 17 Feb.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

GWYDD FRONGOCH

CEREDIGION: one at Glandyfi and RSPB Ynys-hir from 13 Oct. to 19 Nov.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

FLINT: a hybrid (with a Shelduck) was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR from 23 June to 18 Aug.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

HWYADEN FWSG

GOWER: one in Pontarddulais and two at Fendrod Lake throughout the year; E.GLAMORGAN: one from a local collection at Tŷ Draw Road, Cardiff, on 25 Jan.; one in Aberdare town park on 12 March; one at Blaen Clydach, Tonypandy, on 17 Nov.; PEMBROKE: one at Rosebush on 23-28 May; DENBIGH: one in Lleweni meadows on 25 March; nine on the outskirts of Llangollen on 28 May.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

FFESANT EURAID

GWENT: male in a Rogerstone garden on 23 May.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

ERYR Y MOR

PEMBROKE: a third calendar-year at Castlemartin Ranges on 16 Aug. had escaped from Pembrokeshire Falconry and was recaptured shortly afterwards.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

ERYR EURAID

CEREDIGION: the escaped bird, nicknamed 'Eddie' and present in the vice-county since 2011, was seen on a number of dates in the Cors Caron area.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris*

IAR GINI HELMOG

CARMARTHEN: two at Talley Lakes on 11 March.

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County and other bird reports 2016

This report is compiled from the vice-county bird reports for 2016:

Gwent Bird Report 2016. Editor: John Coleman.

Available from Andrew Cormack, 29 Chestnut Drive, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5JZ. Price £10 + £1.50 for p&p. Cheques payable to the Gwent Ornithological Society.

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2016. Editor: John Wilson.

Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £8 + £1.58 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2016.

Contact co-editor Robert E Tallack, 1 Woodside Close, Killay, Swansea SA2 7ED. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2016. Editor: Rob Hunt.

Available from Wendell Thomas, 48 Glebe Road, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6QD. Price £7.00 (includes postage). Cheques payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2016. Editor: Jon Green

Available online, downloaded free from

<http://pembsbirds.blogspot.co.uk/2017/07/pembrokeshire-bird-report-2016.html>

Ceredigion Bird Report 2016.

Available from A. Williams, 11 Cysgod y Coed, Cwmann, Carmarthenshire SA48 8DN. Price £7.00 including p&p. Cheques payable to A. Williams.

Breconshire Bird Report 2016. Editor: Andrew King

Available from Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, Powys LD3 7AY. Price £7 + £1.20 p&p. Cheques payable to 'Brecknock Wildlife Trust'. Back copies available at £1.50.

Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2016.

Published online, downloaded free from <http://montgomerybirdblog.blogspot.co.uk>

Cambrian Bird Report 2016 (Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd) Ed: John Small

Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL33 0ET. Price £7.20 including postage, cheque payable to Cambrian O.S.

North-East Wales Bird Report 2016 (Denbighshire and Flintshire). Editor: Ian Spence.

Available from Editor, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold CH7 6LT. Price £5 + £1.70 p&p.

Other Bird Reports

Bardsey's Wildlife 2016. Editor: Anthony John.

Available from: Jo Jones, 70 Newmarket Road, Burwell, Cambs, CB25 0AE. £10 + £2.50 p&p, cheque payable to Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory

Skokholm Bird Observatory Annual Report 2016

Available to download at:

<https://www.welshwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Annual-Report-2016.pdf>

Auk, Little	93
Avocet	61
Bittern	43
Blackbird	155
Blackcap	143
Bluetail, Red-flanked	159
Brambling	171
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		Gull, Lesser Black-backed	105
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